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# HIGH TIMES MARCH



*“My goal was to maintain standards—meaning no mold, no pests, no contaminants. I just don’t understand doing it any other way, because I do enjoy the medicine myself and I’m passionate about what it can do for people.”*

—Canada’s New Cannabis Era, page 78

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## **43 Top 40 Stoner Anthems**

Whether you’re into hip-hop, heavy metal, R&B or reggae, we guarantee this compilation of the most iconic pot songs of all time will prove highly enlightening. *By Bobby Black*

## **49 40 Greatest Seed Banks of All Time**

Danny Danko adds 10 more bud-breeding outfits to the 30 already enshrined in our illustrious High Times Seed Bank Hall of Fame.

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Here’s a handy how-to on the construction of a simple yet effective hydroponic growing bucket capable of producing plenty of potent pot.

## **66 Meet the Cookie Family**

The hottest strain on the market these days is probably not what you think it is. Meet the originators of Girl Scout Cookies and find out why. *By Chris Simunek*

## **78 Canada’s New Cannabis Era**

Canada has just overhauled its medical marijuana program, and now it’s time for the “vision thing.” Who can produce the best medicine for patients in the commercial marketplace? Try Peace Naturals on for size! *By Dan Skye*

## **92 Budsport: Marijuana and Mixed Martial Arts**

The fastest-growing sport in the nation is also the stoniest. And despite drastic official sanctions, marijuana has been a part of mixed martial arts from the very beginning. *By Zeus Tipado*

## **98 High Times Interview: Matt Riddle**

Top MMA fighter Matt Riddle was suspended from the Ultimate Fighting Championship last year for testing positive for pot. But that didn’t stop him from going public and extolling the benefits of cannabis. Matt tells us about his ongoing ordeal. *By Dan Skye*

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# HIGH TIMES DIGITAL



Tracie Lotus Starr is one of The Dames of Flame.

## ► Glass Artist of the Month

While working at a Renaissance Festival, Tracie Lotus Starr met Marty Christiansen, the artist who would teach her the art of blowing glass. She soon left her IT job in Atlanta—indefinitely preferring the world of glass to cubicle life—and moved to Asheville, NC with Marty in 2006.

There, they founded The Hippie Hookup, a different kind of glass art distribution company, one that supports and promotes its artists. Today, their company represents more than 100 different artists and distributes merchandise nationwide. Recently, the duo has returned to the torch, handing over the distribution side of their business to a trusted friend. In addition to the luxury of being able to create more of their own glass, the move has allowed Tracie and Marty the opportunity to train apprentices in their studio. The studio also hosts classes and offers space to visiting artists.

In addition to competing in industry “flameoffs” (glassblowing competitions), Tracie helped organize The Dames of the Flame, a group of female glassblowers, which supports charities. For Tracie, community is paramount, and she is honored to have “the opportunity to meet and collaborate with so many talented artists.”

*Check out Tracie’s work at [hightimes.com/glass](http://hightimes.com/glass).*



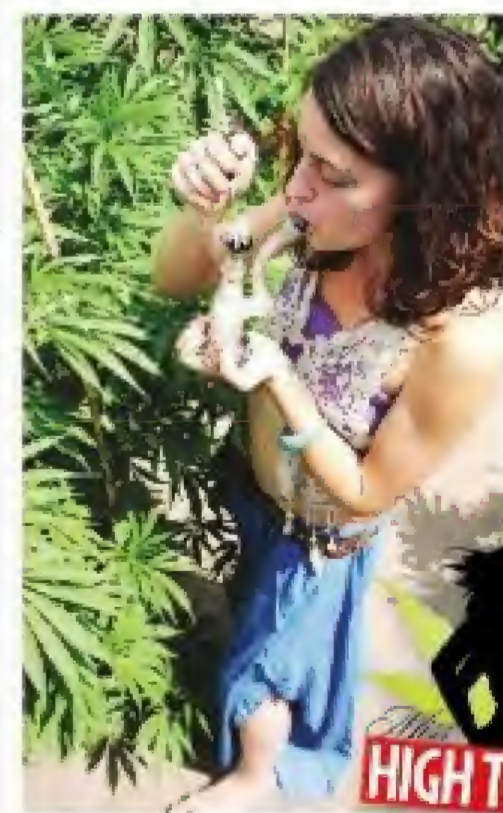
## ► Free Weed Weekly!

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko now hosts his popular podcast every Thursday at 4:20. Tune in to *Free Weed from Danny Danko* for cultivation advice, interviews with pot celebs and discussions of the latest happenings in the world of weed.



## ► Bash on the Stash

Managing editor Jen Bernstein is our resident mistress of stoner music. Tune in to *Jen’s Music Stash*, the podcast that hits the highest notes in stoner music. Get updates on cool concerts and hot bands.



## Miss March 2014

NAME: Kai  
PROFILE: N/A  
AGE: 20  
CITY: Santa Cruz, CA  
OCCUPATION: Massage therapist

To enter or rate contestants, go to [misshightimes.com](http://misshightimes.com). You must be 18 years or older to enter.

DAN SKYE

### POT POLL

## Social Toking

Nearly 3,000 of you weighed in on how you prefer to smoke—whether you like to smoke alone or with others. Not surprisingly, most of us are social animals with over 80 percent stating that smoking with others is either preferable or makes no difference. The question is though, do you get higher smoking alone or sharing? Sounds like more research is necessary!

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Alone...16%  
With others...28%  
Makes no difference...55%





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## MMA and THC

**O**ne of my favorite bits of recent pot activism was the billboard paid for by the Marijuana Policy Project outside the Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium, home of the Denver Broncos. It read: STOP DRIVING PLAYERS TO DRINK. A SAFER CHOICE IS NOW LEGAL (HERE). A quick perusal of the NFL arrests database on U-T San Diego's website shows that three charges dominate the list: DUI, assault and marijuana possession—and I don't think it's a stretch to say that many of the assault charges are alcohol-related. That would be the MPP billboard's point in a nutshell: Why can't athletes have a more peaceful, less physically disorienting alternative to alcohol? It's easy to think of professional athletes—especially on the NFL, NBA and MLB level—as pampered millionaires, but they should be allowed to get their smoke on all the same.

Another sport with an even greater percentage of tokers is mixed martial arts. MMA fighters don't earn anywhere near the salary that the big-leaguers make, so when they get disqualified for using marijuana as a "performance-enhancing drug," not only does it fuck up their career, but it hits them hard in the pocketbook. Notwithstanding a recent rule change that increased the amount of cannabis allowed in a fighter's system from 50 ng/mL to 150 ng/mL, the Nevada State Athletic Commission still declares any match "no contest" if a fighter tests positive for PEDs (in this case, marijuana).

You might think UFC fighters would be afraid to speak out in favor of pot, but they're not. That brings us to this issue of *High Times* and its investigative article "Budsport" by Zeus Tipado, who runs the excellent MMA website *MiddleEasy.com*. Zeus looks at the history of pot and mixed martial arts and talks to the main players. As a bonus for our MMA fans out there, Dan Skye interviews Matt Riddle, perhaps the most pro-pot fighter of all time. Check out that bag he's holding—Matt is definitely one of us!

*Chris Simunek*  
Editor-In-Chief

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SINCE 1998

### Veterans for Pot!

I want to briefly tell you my story. I am an active-duty soldier and a paralegal for close to six years, who just started working for prosecutors on August 1. Nonetheless, I do believe in the medicinal use of marijuana for pain and anxiety relief. I was recently diagnosed with a rare brain disease called pseudotumor cerebri. Basically, my brain makes too much cerebral spinal fluid, which mimics tumor symptoms. Most patients including myself suffer with symptoms like fatigue, dizziness, head pressure and pain, forgetfulness or memory issues, “cog fog,” sudden drops in energy, physical pain when bending over or carrying anything over 20 pounds, looking and acting like we’re drunk when we are not, so much pressure in the eye that it causes papilledema and sometimes leads to blindness. Some people have this disorder because they are overweight; they lose the pounds, and the disease goes away. I do not fall into that category or any other that makes sense to the doctors.

There are a few things that I do have in common with other patients. First, I am given multiple FDA-approved medications with many side effects to “help” with the severe pressure caused from an excess of fluid in my head—medications like Diamox (acetazolamide) and Lentizol (amitriptyline). Due to the side effects of Diamox, I cannot get hungry and have extreme thirst all day and night no matter how many liters of water I drink. Since this is rare, there are not many studies about it that most doctors care to look deeper into. Due to the lack of eating, I am weaker and even more tired. The medications they prescribe for this already-tiring disease have warning labels that say: “May increase drowsiness. Alcohol may intensify the effect. Use caution when operating a motor vehicle or heavy equipment.” They have also brought my sex drive to a screeching halt.

The second thing I have in common with other patients is that my pituitary gland has basically become collapsed and empty instead of the plump pea shape it should be in. This does cause many of us to have stress issues or hormonal imbalances. It also makes us tired.

It is legal to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes to trick my body into thinking it’s relaxing when it’s actually doing the opposite. It is legal for a soldier to take these drowsiness-inducing medications every morning. I sometimes walk around my house back and forth, lost



**The police in states where pot is totally legal focus unduly on our black and Hispanic brethren. It needs to be legalized nationwide.**

and confused, as if I had Alzheimer’s. Sometimes I even talk like it, too.

So these legal medicines intensify my symptoms with their side effects ... but I know of a flower that makes me hungry and helps with stress. And yet, that flower is illegal.

Val

### Almost Threw Away My Joint

My church believes that smoking pot is a sin and the only thing that was said about plants at all in the Bible is Genesis 1:29: “Behold, I have given you every herb-bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth... to you it shall be for meat.”

I’m not just defending a plant here; I’m defending an entire culture. We are white as milk, with blond hair like cornsilk, or black as midnight in a rainstorm, and everything in between. We listen to jam bands, classic rock, rap, classical and everything else. But we all know someone who has been arrested for possession and thus barred from certain jobs for life. The police in states where pot is totally illegal focus unduly on our black and Hispanic brethren. It needs to be legalized nationwide, and I think indeed that it is only a matter of time.

I refuse to quit smoking for the same

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reason David Crosby refused to cut his hair. I am a responsible user; I am discreet around conservative friends, keep it out of the sight and smell of younger members of my family, and am professional on the job and at karate class. On the street, I’m just an average Joe. I’m a married man, and act like it. I am no danger to anyone except muggers or fighting drunks. I avoid alcohol by choice. I’m either at work, at home, at karate, at the grocery store or at church.

Because of the laws of my state and possible work repercussions, I cannot reveal my name. It is a well-known fact that cops read *High Times*.

Anonymous

### First Issue

I was hoping you could help me. I have an old copy of issue #1 that was given to me in 1974, when *High Times* first came out. It has a cover price of \$1 and does not have a banner across the left top. I understand that this was an issue printed to distribute to vendors, one that the *High Times* staff wanted to use to sell the magazine. It appears to have

been printed with a silver metallic ink on the front and back cover. My email address is [bruceeee@aol.com](mailto:bruceeee@aol.com) or [heightsoffset@roadrunner.com](mailto:heightsoffset@roadrunner.com). I currently have it up for sale on eBay as “First Printing, First Issue.”

Bruce

There were four different printings of the first issue of *High Times*. The first edition was printed in silver foil on a heavy cardstock, with the cover lines flush on the left side. Later editions contained a strip in the upper left-hand corner that read Premiere Issue.

### Molly Advice

I commend you for advocating intelligent harm reduction in this article: [www.hightimes.com/read/6-tips-molly-how-party-without-dying](http://www.hightimes.com/read/6-tips-molly-how-party-without-dying). However, it is missing the single most important tip: buy a test kit, learn how to use it, and use it correctly on every single batch of drugs except marijuana that you or your friends use. My baby brother Brian died after taking something that he didn’t test, so I would greatly appreciate it if you could append this to the article and repost it to Facebook.

Paul

We here at *High Times* are sorry for your loss. The Molly article on the Web has now been updated with your insightful and very helpful addition.



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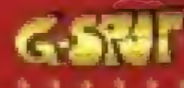
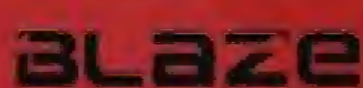


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**COOKIES ANYONE?** You're looking at a field of the genuine, honest-to-God, real-deal Girl Scout Cookies. Many people are out there selling what they call "Girl Scout Cookies," but they're not the real thing. The creators of this variety have never sold or given away their genetics, and insist the hybrids in circulation are phenotypes grown from seeds found in bags of the genuine product. While the Cookie Family is glad about all the attention, they contacted *High Times* to tell the world the truth about this phenomenal strain. *Photo by Freebie*





**Contact  
High**

SEED BANK HALL OF FAME It all starts with a seed. Without the achievements of clandestine bud breeders, many of our favorite strains would be lost to the ages. We salute those valiant souls who improve the marijuana gene pool in our High Times Seed Bank Hall of Fame. Creator Danny Danko adds 10 more companies to our illustrious list starting on page 49. *Photo by Freebie*







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# Highwitness News

**Miley Gets Highly Baked in Holland!**



**Entertainment**  
**Bands That Stick Together**  
 Velcro's funky tunes stay with you. p.27



**Food**  
**Baked Dab Apples**  
 An apple a day bakes your troubles away! p.34



The cannabinoid system is definitely involved in the conditioning of fear.

to repeatedly recount and re-examine the experience until it no longer holds any power over them. Additional sessions help them return to the places and activities that may have served as reminders of the trauma.

The treatment is certainly no picnic, but it can work wonders. Dr. Ed Hickling, author of the book *Transforming Tragedy* and dozens of research papers on the topic, emphasizes that successful treatment can often lead people to view their adaptation to the event as a meaningful growth experience. It's hardly a perfect cure, but prolonged exposure is one of the most successful psychotherapies around. The average person who completes it does better than 85 percent of the people in placebo treatments. (These usually focus only on talking about feelings or learning about stress.)

Most Veterans Administration hospitals and mental health centers can help. Treatment is

worth the effort. However, there is a problem—namely, time. Capt. Sean Sheppard, PhD, a US Army psychologist, puts it best: “Long hours filled with frequent trainings and deployments make regular attendance at sessions close to impossible.”

Needless to say, even those of us who aren't in the military can have incredibly busy lives—so perhaps a medication would also help. Now, it might be naïve to think that ingesting a substance can take the place of thoroughly recounting painful experiences, but it would certainly be a useful tool.

So far, however, Big Pharma's solutions don't look very promising. Recent reviews of available medications have trumpeted stats claiming that 59 percent of the people who use these drugs have improved, compared to 39 percent of those taking a placebo. But a quick look at the side effects for most of these drugs

## Pot, PTSD and Prohibition

Evidence that cannabis eases the symptoms of PTSD is growing—but the federal government continues to deny access. *By Dr. Mitch Earleywine*

**Post-traumatic stress disorder.** Shell shock. Battle fatigue.

Whatever people have called it over the years, the condition involves the serious psychological problems that remain after a dreadful ordeal.

I used to get weepy when I drove the same spot of highway where I'd once had an accident, but that doesn't really qualify. However, if I experienced constant, overwhelming anxiety about the experience, had dreams of car crashes nightly, and refused to drive down the highway again, my symptoms definitely would.

The symptoms of PTSD include re-experiencing the traumatic event via

nightmares or flashbacks, as well as a jumpy state of hyper-arousal and avoiding anything associated with the trauma. The latest hairsplitting about the diagnosis emphasizes that the symptoms have to last for at least a month and create a genuine disturbance in the person suffering them. Although borderline cases may appear in disability claims, the disorder usually presents undeniable symptoms.

One of the best treatments—prolonged exposure therapy—creates improvement in a couple of months. Spirited discussions about symptoms, important training in how to manage stress, and a series of 90-minute sessions help clients

« is discouraging. (Side effects include difficulty achieving an orgasm, diminished libido and other sexual difficulties for 20 to 40 percent of patients.)

Can cannabis help? Many trauma survivors swear by the plant. My own laboratory has issued data on the topic. Veterans in the sample report that cannabis helps ease re-experiencing the traumatic event, as well as the general state of anxiety and hyper-arousal and associated sleep problems.

Additionally, animal research makes it clear that the cannabinoid system is definitely involved in the conditioning of fear. This work usually involves giving rodents a sharp electrical jolt to the foot instantly after they hear a tone. After a few times, the tone alone causes them to freeze in their tracks—a pretty good sign that they're terrified. Rodents bred to have no cannabinoid receptors, or those with their receptors blocked by chemicals, have a very difficult time unlearning the link between the tone and the jolt. For rodents with normal cannabinoid-system functioning, the freezing reaction eventually subsides with repeated presentations of the tone that don't include any shocks.

It's a nice analogue to prolonged

## Many trauma survivors swear by the plant. Veterans report that cannabis helps ease re-experiencing the traumatic event, as well as the general state of anxiety and hyper-arousal and associated sleep problems.

exposure therapy, where the survivors discuss the trauma repeatedly until they no longer find it so upsetting. But the poor rodents whose cannabinoid systems have been chemically altered keep freezing in response to the tone long after the others have recovered.

Sadly, the obvious next step remains uninvestigated: give the rodents THC and see if they can unlearn their fear faster. Better yet, give cannabis to humans with PTSD and see if their symptoms are relieved.

Dr. Rick Doblin and the staff at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) have raised \$10,000 for just this sort of project. Furthermore, the ethics board at the University of Arizona has approved the project. Unfortunately, approval from any of the various federal agencies involved, such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Food and Drug Administration or the Department of Health and Human

Services, has not been forthcoming.

This is hardly surprising. Despite the fact that Arizona is a state that has legalized medical marijuana, researchers are unable to acquire “medical-grade” cannabis from NIDA unless federal bureaucrats okay the project. Meanwhile, it is the FDA's responsibility to ensure that all drugs administered are “medical-grade,” thus adding to the logjam.

Not that we need yet another reason for ending pot prohibition, but the scourge of PTSD—especially among our military veterans, whose suicide rates are astronomically high—demands that cannabis be freed so that those who need its medical benefits can be freed as well. ✨

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Trained PTSD therapists in many towns are listed at abct.org.*

### HIGH FIVE

## Administration Frustrations

The Obama presidency is rethinking cannabis-law reform, but there are holdouts. *By Mark Miller*



**Michele Leonhart**  
(DEA Administrator)  
Bush holdover Leonhart, then the acting DEA administrator, was criticized in 2008 by Representative John Conyers for targeting dispensaries. But Obama chose to keep her on board. She was the catalyst for the resumption of federal raids on dispensaries. In 2012, Leonhart refused to testify before Congress on the subject of whether pot is less harmful than crack, heroin or meth.



**Kathleen Sebelius**  
(Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services)  
Sebelius and her department oppose medical pot. But the National Institute of Health, an agency within the HHS, granted exclusive rights for commercial development of the US government patent “Cannabinoids as Antioxidants and Neuroprotectants” to KannaLife Sciences in 2011. The HHS hypocritically states that cannabis no medicinal value.



**Michael Gottlieb**  
(National HIDTA Director)  
“HIDTA” stands for “High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Area.” It's also the name of a drug prohibition task-force program overseen by Gottlieb at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. HIDTA tried to prevent the implementation of Amendment 64 in Colorado and the Cannabis Action Coalition has accused HIDTA of trying to stymie Washington State's medical marijuana law.



**Kim Thorsen**  
(Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior)  
For Thorsen, visiting a US National Forest is as dangerous as a combat tour in Afghanistan. She testified before the Senate on the environmental dangers and increased violence caused by gardens on public lands. Thorsen works with the aforementioned HIDTA to concoct overblown eradication efforts like Operation Full Court Press.



**Dr. Nora Volkow**  
(Director, National Institute of Drug Abuse)  
Volkow is a big proponent of the “marijuana causes cognitive decline” argument. The NIDA website features warnings that pot use by adolescents leads to lower IQs, despite clinical evidence to the contrary. Last August, NIDA denied that cannabis is less toxic than alcohol. During National Drug Facts Week every January, she dispenses trite propaganda to impressionable students.

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## Sky High Pot Market

In the second edition of the State of Legal Marijuana Markets report, an estimated \$1.43 billion dollars worth of legal pot was sold in 2013, a figure expected to rise 64 percent in 2014 to a staggering \$2.34 billion. By comparison, the International Data Corp said that the smartphone market will increase 21.4 percent in the US from '12 to '13.

In crafting the juxtaposition between pot and iPhones, report editor Steve Berg said his intent was to demonstrate the rapid growth of the cannabis market in relation to a familiar product.

As Berg told the *Huffington Post*: "Cannabis is one of the fastest-growing industries. Domestically, we weren't able to find any market that is growing as quickly."

For example, Colorado's cannabis market is projected to gain an additional \$359 million in 2014. The report also predicts 14 more states will legalize recreational pot by 2018, resulting in a potential nationwide weed market of \$10.2 billion.

These figures only represent sales of retail pot, not of related products. If paraphernalia and cultivation supplies are included, the growth and market value of the cannabis industry is stratospheric!

Miley gets wrecked on the air!



## Miley's Dutch Treat

Putting her marijuana where her mouth is, pop princess Miley Cyrus smoked a now-censored joint onstage during the 2013 MTV Europe Music Awards in Amsterdam. After receiving the Best Video Award for her smash hit, "Wrecking Ball," Miley pretended to put the award in her purse, remarking: "I can't fit it in my bag...but I did find this!"

She proceeded to pull out a doobie, which she lit up and inhaled. Alas, the footage was edited out when the EMAs were later aired in the US, though a clip did make it to YouTube.

Miley is hardly a secret stoner. She wore pot-leaf avatars on her earphones during her live rendition of "Ball" and two days before the EMAs, the 20-year-old partied with fellow celebs at the Greenhouse coffeeshop in downtown Amsterdam.

Being in Holland also inspired other stars at the EMAs. Snoop Dogg performed "Gin and Juice," featuring the lyrics: "Rollin' down the street smokin' indo," and Will Ferrell, as Ron Burgundy from *Anchorman*, pretended to scarf down a Dutch cafe pot brownie.

## What's Up, Docs?

In November, delegates at the 2013 Interim Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates passed a resolution on marijuana that explicitly opposes marijuana legalization. The AMA's Policy Statement on Cannabis will read: "Our AMA believes that (1) cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern; (2) sale of cannabis should not be legalized."

Dr. Stuart Gitlow, the chair-elect of the AMA Council on Science and Health, had this to say: "The AMA today reiterated the widely-held scientific view that marijuana is dangerous and should not be legalized... We can only hope that the public will listen to science—not 'Big Marijuana' interests who stand to gain

millions of dollars from increased addiction rates."

Naturally, the AMA calls for "public-health based strategies, rather than incarceration." You can follow the money on that one. But Big Marijuana? That's a new one on us. If there's a member of the "Big Marijuana" monopoly out there, please call us!



Medical marijuana malpractice

## Albania's Killer Weed

In a remote Balkans village in Lazarat, Albania, at least 700 pot field harvesters were forced to seek medical attention after suffering "serious disorders from cannabis intoxication." Most of the patients were women and teenagers, some younger than 15. According to

the local doctor who treated the patients, they "suffered from bouts of vomiting, stomach pain, heart problems and high blood pressure."

Pot has been harvested for centuries, but this is news to us. Isn't marijuana used to treat such maladies?

Not according to Dr. Hysni Luka, who insisted that planting, harvesting, pressing and packing pot caused the workers' symptoms. A more reasonable

explanation might be overuse of pesticides that can cause vomiting and nausea. Certainly, grueling work in hot fields might be responsible for heart issues and elevated blood pressure.

Lazarat, near the border of Greece, is reportedly Albania's largest pot producer, annually generating 900 tons worth over \$6 billion. Albania is a major international drug conduit country and the top supplier of marijuana to Europe.

## Election “Jay” Results

While 2013’s pot-related US election results were hardly as monumental as Colorado and Washington legalizing recreational pot the previous year, there were still significant outcomes at the polls in November.

**Portland, ME** became the first East Coast city to legalize recreational weed when Question 1 passed with 67 percent of the vote, which permits possession of up to 2.5 ounces for anyone 21-and older. However, non-medical use remains illegal statewide.

**In Michigan** voters in three cities—Jackson, Lansing and the Detroit suburb of Ferndale—all easily passed measures to legalize possession of less than an ounce of recreational pot for anyone 21 and over. That makes 14 cities in Michigan that have passed such ordinances.

**In Colorado** Prop AA was passed with a convincing 65 percent of the vote. It levies a 15 percent excise tax on recreational pot sold wholesale and a 10 percent retail sales tax for consumer purchases.

Not everyone is pleased though. “This is not keeping with the promise to tax marijuana like alcohol,” said Rachel Gillette, president of Colorado NORML. “It’s more like regulating the sale of plutonium than alcohol. It looks like a law-enforcement money grab.” Beer is taxed at eight cents per gallon in Colorado, while wine and liquor are 28 cents and \$2.28 per gallon, respectively.



## A Day Without MJ Is A Day Without Sunshine!

In Florida, where possession of an ounce is a felony with a possibility of five years in jail, 82 percent of registered voters support legal medical marijuana. But an amendment proposed to allow its use is too lenient, says Gov. Rick Scott: “So long as a physician held the opinion that the drug use ‘would likely outweigh’ the risks, Florida would be powerless to stop it.”

But, no doubt about it. We see rays of hope in the Sunshine State!

## Big Pharma Pays for Pot Training

In Washington State, the pharmaceutical industry’s loss is medical marijuana’s gain. The state’s Attorney General agreed to give a share of a Big Pharma lawsuit settlement to a collegiate institute that will educate and orient healthcare professionals as to the proper use of medicinal cannabis.

As part of the AG’s office’s program to distribute consumer litigation funds, a \$110,000 grant was issued to the University of Washington’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI), which was a portion of the

\$1.3 million Washington received as part of a multi-state settlement with drug titan Pfizer.

Pfizer pled guilty in 2009 to intent to defraud healthcare providers regarding the effects of two drugs.

ADAI plans to use the grant to “train doctors, nurses, naturopaths and other healthcare providers how to use marijuana in a way that scientific research supports,” starting with a survey of medical professionals to determine the volume of reliable information that’s available regarding medicinal cannabis.

## Parents vs. Arizona

Inspired by the CNN documentary *Weed*, Jacob and Jennifer Welton administered a hemp extract to their five-year-old son in an attempt to control his epileptic seizures. They had been unable to find a regular supply of pot rich in CBD—the non-psychoactive compound that has been

proved to be highly beneficial in used to treating seizures. The extract “all but stopped” their son’s seizures, according to the Weltons’ filed complaint.

But Arizona Department of Health Services director Will Humble indecisively concluded that extracts might be illegal under the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act. So the Weltons filed a lawsuit against the state of Arizona, Gov. Jan Brewer and high-ranking government officials. They seek to avoid criminal

prosecution. They seek a declaration that the AMMA’s decriminalization of pot for medicinal purposes includes cannabis-related products. They’re also seeking an injunction to prevent government agencies from prosecuting them.

Prosecutors and police oppose extracts. The Weltons are forced to rely on crushed, dried pot leaves in their son’s food, hardly an option. The case will likely be decided by the state Supreme Court.

## No Wearin’ o’ the Green

A legislative measure that would have permitted personal cultivation and commercial cannabis sales was defeated in the Dáil Éireann (Assembly of Ireland)—the Irish Parliament’s lower house—by a resounding 111-8 vote in November.

In rejecting legal weed, anti-pot pols resorted to lame arguments like the fact that the Emerald Isle is already beset with alcoholism, disregarding studies that indicate pot is an effective treatment for alcoholics. Other blarney maintained that criminals who import guns and cocaine would flood Ireland with cannabis.

The vote hardly reflects the public’s views: a recent online poll conducted by *TheJournal.ie* reported 84 percent of respondents want pot legalized in Ireland.

Colorful bill sponsor Deputy Luke “Ming” Flanagan threatened to retaliate by naming members of the Dáil who previously admitted to getting high.

HIGHWIRE

## Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



The Teflon  
drug lord

### More Sinaloa Cartel Busts—but Still No “El Chapo”

Three alleged agents of Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel, accused of conspiring to distribute 1,000 kilograms of cocaine in the US and Europe, face trial in a New Hampshire federal court after being extradited from Spain. One defendant, Manuel Jesús Gutiérrez Guzmán, has been identified as a cousin of Joaquín Guzmán, a.k.a. “El Chapo,” the cartel’s notorious fugitive kingpin. Another, Rafael Humberto Celaya Valenzuela, was a candidate for public office in Sonora with Mexico’s ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The whereabouts of El Chapo—ostensibly Mexico’s most wanted fugitive—remain the source of much speculation.

### Gulf Cartel’s Guatemalan Jefe Apprehended in Chiapas

Mexican federal police on October 4 announced the arrest of a fugitive Gulf Cartel leader, Eduardo Francisco Villatoro Cano, a.k.a. “Guayo,” who was wanted in Guatemala for an armed attack on a police station in June that left nine officers dead. Guayo was captured in southern Chiapas state and turned over to authorities in Guatemala, where President Otto Pérez Molina asserted that



A waste of good motā

### Eradication Ops Sweep Mexico’s “Golden Triangle”

As harvest season approached in Mexico’s rugged Golden Triangle, army and police forces launched aggressive cannabis eradication campaigns. Commanders of the Fifth Military Region, straddling the states of Jalisco and Zacatecas, report that in September, 882 plants covering 115 hectares were burned, along with 284 opium plants covering 19 hectares. Military forces in Durango state gave a figure of 23 metric tons of harvested cannabis destroyed, as well as 500 marijuana and opium plants. In Chihuahua, according to figures from the army and state police forces, 16 tons of harvested cannabis were eradicated in just one operation in Ejido La Joya.

the Gulf Cartel network in his country has now been dismantled.

### Mexican Narcos Abduct Migrants—Again

In disturbing news from Mexico’s northeast border state of Tamaulipas, police on October 1 said they rescued 73 abducted migrants outside Reynosa. Of the victims, 37 were Mexicans, while the rest were Central Americans. They included women and minors, some of whom had been sexually abused. Three suspects were detained; they are believed to have seized the migrants from buses that they stopped in the desert. Some of the victims had been held for up to four months while their captors demanded payment from their families, police said. Weapons and drugs were also seized at the suspects’ home, including nearly 700 rounds of ammunition, a hand grenade,

and 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds) of what was “believed to be” marijuana.

Tamaulipas has seen a wave of incidents in which migrants are kidnapped en masse, held for ransom or threatened with death if they refuse to serve as drug-running “mules.” In recent years, there have been two massacres of abducted migrants in Tamaulipas, with efforts by relatives to identify those killed still underway.

### Moroccan Hashish Exports Go Through the Roof

Algeria seized more than 127 metric tons of hashish coming in from Morocco in the first eight months of 2013, authorities announced on October 2. Some 12,500 suspected traffickers have also been arrested. Algeria has officially closed its border with the conservative kingdom since 1994, citing political



Coming your way

tensions and the flow of contraband. But the trade obviously flourishes, with subsidized Algerian fuel smuggled into Morocco in a dope-for-oil deal. In 2012, more than 157 tons of cannabis were seized in Algeria, compared with 53 tons in 2011. The explosion in marijuana smuggling has prompted Algeria to beef up security on its western frontier.

### Albania Emerges as Top European Cannabis Hub

Italian police say that impoverished Albania, just across the Adriatic Sea, is the source of vast quantities of cannabis entering their country. In the latest major haul in July, Italian Finance



Albania: “Europe’s  
Afghanistan”

Police intercepted a metric ton of cannabis from a speedboat along the coast of southern Puglia region. Four crewmen were arrested—two Italians and two Albanians. Weeks earlier, Finance Police released the results of aerial surveillance that identified 500 cannabis plantations across Albania’s backcountry. In the 20 years since the fall of its rigid communist dictatorship, Albania has earned the title of “Europe’s Afghanistan” for its prodigious cannabis production.

In Lazarat, near the Greek border, cannabis is an economic mainstay despite the militarized police raids. When a SWAT team descended and started cutting down plants in August, a convoy of 15 SUVs mounted with heavy machine guns quickly arrived, opened fire and drove off the cops. “We were drawing indiscriminate fire from 20 positions, including heavy machine guns and anti-tank missiles,” a commissioner told the news website Global Post. “I saw a 70-year-old grandmother shooting at us with a heavy machine gun. I thought I was going to die.”<sup>✿</sup>

*For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg’s websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.*



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Oregon green or  
Mexican brown?  
Either way, "it's  
all good."

**"My favorite is, for the writing process, to smoke and just let things flow."**

with a keep-on-chooglin' vibe that chugs down the rolling roads of the mythical West. There's a core intensity to it all suggestive of the Seeds and the Velvets, Hawkwind and Krautrockers Neu!, a trancey thing owing to the sheer economy of the songs' sound palettes and structures.

Johnson, not surprisingly, likes to enable his creativity with the aid of a little cannabis. "My favorite is, for the writing process, to smoke and just let things flow," he says. "I don't think about it: I just get the guitar in my hands and see what happens, and just sort of make myself available for these things to happen."

Nor is Johnson exactly picky when it comes to his choice of smoke. "It's funny, living in Portland," he laughs, "because people take beer and coffee *very* seriously here. But I'm like: It's all good. The biggest thing for me is to be able to know how strong something is. I grew up smoking really bad Mexican brown weed, and I have this affection for it, because that's what I was used to when I was in high school. So that's what I'm looking forward to when they legalize it in Oregon—to be able to say, 'Well, here's something that's really mellow, and here's something that's really intense,' and to know the spectrum and be able to select based on what you're feeling like." 🌿

# Sailing On

Neo-psych rockers Wooden Shjips explore uncharted waters with a new album, a new home base, and a little help from good old Mary Jane. *By John Payne*

**Back to Land** (Thrill Jockey) is the first album that Wooden Shjips created outside their beloved San Francisco. The band's move to the greener pastures of Portland, OR, has had quite an expanding effect on their music—and their heads.

"The last album, *The West*, was focused on San Francisco, and I was really sad to leave there," says guitarist-singer Ripley Johnson. "But this record became more about feeling at home and more grounded than I had in a long time. Portland is a lot mellower; there's a lot more nature here, so that crept into the songwriting process."

Recorded by Johnson,

drummer Omar Ahsanuddin, bassist Dusty Jermier and keyboardist Nash Whalen, *Back to Land* is psychedelic, sure—but subtly so, flowing with organic melodies that spring up out of the fertile soil of two-chord riffs, curlicue-droning fuzz-ax leads, twining organ and Johnson's muffled vocal lines. It's like the whole point was to do nothing fancy, just get the job done directly and persuasively, much like the dusty, ancient rock stuff that served as the album's inspiration.

"I was listening to all these old records that I hadn't heard in a long time, and a lot of it was classic rock," Johnson says. "That's always

been a big influence for us, but more so on this record because I was delving into all this formative music and letting that seep into ours."

Compressing the best of the '60s and '70s into one big, tasty sandwich, the title track and others such as "Ruins," "Ghouls" and "These Shadows" come off like Creedence Clearwater jamming with the Grateful Dead, Canned Heat and Neil Young's Crazy Horse,



## What's 7-Eleven Plus 420?

"Oregon is a good state if you like to smoke pot. It was one of the first states to decriminalize it, and now the state is pushing to fully legalize. That's exciting—it's not that hard to find it now, but it'd be nice to just walk in a store and get marijuana right now."

Breakfast of champions: Peters, Slater, Spoonwood, Gauntt, and Colman get ready to face the day.



singer Hawk Colman. “I was turned on to it in Chicago by a lovely young lady. It’s quite powerful—it was amazing. And then she turned me on to Grape Ape. Those are my two favorites.”

“Hawk is often high at practice,” Slater says. “And he can just come up with *anything*—lyrics and hooks—on the fuckin’ spot.”

Getting the right strain for music engineering was important to Slater. Although the band has been touring nationally since 2005 and has released some amazing previous records, this is the first album that he’s mixed and

recorded himself, using initial tracks from Chicago’s famed Soma studio. His strategy was one of endurance, putting down “40 mixes a day” for a couple of weeks and then emailing the best two or three to the band. They’d get back to him within hours with their feedback, and he’d use their input to do it all over again the next day.

“One thing that was a nice surprise about mixing this album,” Peters says, “was that I found that by the end of the mixing session, we all had such an ear for how we should each sound. So we’re all looking out for each other. And I’ve been in a lot of bands where this was not the case.”

“Every member’s gotta sign off on everything on the album,” Slater affirms. Even if it’s “something like a three-second thing, a sound—that’s important.” ✨

## Sticky Buds

Funk rock occultists the Velcro Lewis Group get personal about pot, playing music and being there for your pals. *By Patrick Hambrecht*

“I can tell you how pot helped record our new album!” says Andy Slater, also known as front man Velcro Lewis of the Velcro Lewis Group. “What was it ... the Orange Sour Diesel? It gave us a lot of energy and manic focus and a nice body high. There were times when we were totally stumped and we’d smoke, and then the whole song was done and we’d put it on the record. Getting an idea for a guitar tone or how to play something—just smoke it, and you have this creative energy.”

You can definitely hear a lot of the buzzy, citrus-flavored *sativa* on the Chicago band’s new album *Open the Sky* (Beyond Beyond Is Beyond), its caffeinating power matching their crazed take on electric gospel blues quite nicely. Just like their

live performances, the record is all about the stomp boogie, that badass dark, physical sound that moves your body first and your mind second.

**“Just smoke [weed], and you have this creative energy.”**

Fans of Captain Beefheart, Can or the Black Diamond Heavies need to get this album now. Also, I’m going to make this boast: They have the best electric washboard player in the world right now in Lawrence Peters, who can make his zig board sound like toms, a phased-out synth or a mean feedback machine. Prove me wrong!

“Yeah, the Orange Sour Diesel,” guitarist Travers Gauntt agrees. “I don’t smoke a lot when we perform, but in the studio the Diesel actually helps me develop more clarity as to what’s sounding good and what’s not.”

“I don’t smoke it when we play a show,” bassist Halden Spoonwood says. “But I do it when we practice. It helps me feel out a part. If I did it at a show, I’d get really into one part and forget to go to the next chord,” he adds with a laugh.

“My favorite is Green Queen,” says drummer and



### Homegrown Talent

Guitarist Travers Gauntt spent his childhood playing music with his family—and harvesting pot. “My mom was a musician, and my dad wrote the lyrics. They were also growing in the basement. We used to help them harvest as kids and chew on the stems.”



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**“How can you make the perfect record? I’m still chasing that.”**

own inner weed. You search for the same feeling from within.”

The mid-paced orchestral tracks on *Dead End Kings* are tempered by bursts of frenetic energy, with songs such as “The Racing Heart,” “Buildings” and “Undo You” inspiring both air-guitar fits and involuntary swaying. Still, Katatonia—composed of vocalist

and co-founder Jonas Renkse, guitarists Nyström and Per Eriksson, bassist Niklas Sandin and drummer Daniel Liljekvist—found it difficult to stop tinkering. And with the advent of crowd funding, they discovered the means to keep riding their creative wave—by way of the cheekily named *Dethroned & Uncrowned*, essentially a stripped-down, dreamy “semi-acoustic” take on *Dead End Kings*’ material. “How can you make the perfect record?” Nyström asks. “I’m still chasing that.”

As he kicks back in the New York venue he’s just performed at, he reflects on the essence of what keeps the band going. “We’re having a good time, but we’re also dead serious,” Nyström says. “And that sums up what is essentially Katatonia: We’re dead serious, but we’re enjoying it.” 🌿

## Dethroned and Unsound

Scandinavian metal lords Katatonia talk ganja, *Gothic* and getting back in the groove. *By Zena Tsarfin*

**Despite popular misconceptions**, the members of Katatonia do not spend the majority of their days locked away in a pitch-black room. Though the Swedish metallers have spent over two decades carving away at a tempered style that draws as much influence from gothic metal as it does from brooding shoegaze, founding guitarist Anders Nyström assures us that appearance is not always the same as reality.

“This is our art, but it doesn’t mean that we’re telling our life story,” Nyström says. “It’s just a focused concentration of it, and that’s what people hear. The dark room is there, but so is the sunny street.” As he sits backstage, lighthearted and chill while discussing the merits of California bud over a joint, it’s easy to forget that so many of Katatonia’s songs exalt hopelessness and

isolation as a kind of self-effacing therapy.

Katatonia’s rise as Stockholm’s Most Gloomy has been arduously labored and oftentimes as slow as black molasses. During their infancy in 1991, the band emulated the death metal style popular at the time. They finally hit their stride as a “clean vocal” act with a knack for complex melodies on their third full-length, 1998’s *Discouraged Ones*. Soon they delivered 2001’s *Last Fair Deal Gone Down*, an album so front-to-end enrapturing that their revered long-time label, Peaceville, was bold enough to print a sales sticker declaring it the best record they’d ever put out. “I did not agree, because they released my favorite record, Paradise Lost’s *Gothic*,” says Nyström. “I asked, ‘Are you fuckin’ sure?’ I peeled mine

off and put it on the Paradise Lost album.”

From that point on, it became Katatonia’s Sisyphean task to top their critically acclaimed masterwork, leading to three more solid (if not slightly overwrought) records until 2012’s resplendent *Dead End Kings*. “I found my motivation again,” Nyström admits. “I’d been struggling for a couple of years .... On [*Dead End Kings*], it just came back to me somehow. I really found my way back to that thrill.” Part of it was his decision to relegate smoking to after the show only. “In the past, I used it to write more,” he says. “Now I’m on my



### Oh, the Colors

Nyström and Renkse sometimes develop songs based on hues. “It starts with a third of the song written” says Nyström, “and one of us says, ‘This is dark blue.’ Give us 10 minutes, and it’s developed into this scene that might have dark water, abandoned cars.”

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## Street Lethal

The heartland's metal blasphemers come out and play.

Everything is a projectile. Everything is allowed. Everything is swallowed. Everything is wet. Everything is on fire. A flaming black crucifix is hurled. A four-string motherfucker set alight. Cold yellow foam is airborne at all times. Half a full stack bobs like a black ice cube floating in rusty bourbon, and black-hooded, jackbooted, bare-chested Evil Athenar is in the eye of the hurricane, whipping up centrifugal chaos with his bare fingers, raving, exhorting like a courtroom attorney to get you off your flabby ass. It's taken almost 10 years, but Midnight has officially become every dirt head, punker and plus-size, Tumblr-famous gal's excuse to get rowdy. Chucking-humans-across-the-room rowdy. Creepy-crawl rowdy. Amateur-night rowdy.

That's what it's like in real life, and you know real life always wins. "This is gonna be off the new album," Evil announces, "which you probably don't care about cuz you don't snort coke off 'em, you don't roll doobies off the albums anymore—you just download shit off the Internet and spend your money on Vaseline jerkin' off." Well, if he's wrong, prove him wrong!

### Midnight

*Alive on the Streets of Cleveland*

(Outlaw Recordings)

They did it in their hometown, Cleveland, and returned to their initial home label, Outlaw, and left no listener uninsulted: "Thanks for comin' out ... of the closet, some of you." Unimpressed with the Halloween candy, Athenar laments: "Candy corns! Ain't you got any Ree-sees? Typical Cleveland, cheap as fuck." It's an assault. It ain't pretty. Somehow, everything has way more than 10 fingers lurching out for ya—does that make 'em inhuman? The sneering licks and pounding rhythms come on like an aural intrusion of a zipper going down and you-know-what rising in the night. Witness a power trio that descends from a spraying, festering bloodline of Motörhead, Venom and the Mentors, and comes across as more base and bonehead than rotten masters A, B and C. Midnight is not the letter D, but Z. *Patrick Delaney*

## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**Obnox**  
*Corrupt Free Enterprise*  
(1-2-X-U)

Judging by the double LP *Corrupt Free Enterprise*, Obnox's ninth joint to date, Lamont "Bim" Thomas (who basically is Obnox) has just been getting warmed up. From a foundation of dirt-level garage punk, Thomas sculpts deep cuts out of blown-out beats, redline guitar damage, and sneering yet

soulful singing—almost as if your local gospel choir had been raised on a diet of the Pagans and Back From the Grave comps. "Ciara" soars, "When Will I See You" aches, and "Deep in the Dusk" is like a Rust Belt Freestyle Fellowship. Obnox is on fire, and you'd be wise to look toward the light. *Erick Hughes*



**Chaos Destroy**  
*Lightning Strikes Twice*  
(Olde English Spelling Bee)

There's a nuanced line between punk and noise rock ... oh, who are we kidding? Whereas punk sets out to scramble your platelets, noise tends to be unrelentingly (pretentiously?) cerebral in its friction. No one is accusing Maryland's Chaos Destroy of being too smart; still, they're plenty sneaky in

the way they conceal swells of no-wave melodies beneath a buildup of scuzz. Skip ahead to the discordant "It's Always Dinnertime (Somewhere)" and "Noise and I," or to the catchy "(Noise) Here We Come" and "A Long Life of Shame (Noise Life)" for compelling evidence.

*Nisha Gopalan*



**American Sharks**  
*American Sharks*  
(The End)

Houston's American Sharks are the latest contenders in the "vest metal" pantheon—a potent subgenre of stoner rock that's as ideal a soundtrack for playing beer pong as it is for taking bong rips. And on their self-titled debut, the trio provides plenty of fuzzy heshier anthems to keep the

party going. It's impossible to abstain from head-nodding during rapid-fire tracks like "Overdrive," "Indian Man" and "Freak Out," and while American Sharks have a ways to go in terms of refining their sound, their raw style—a hyper mix of Red Fang and the Sword—packs a wallop. *Zena Tsarfin*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

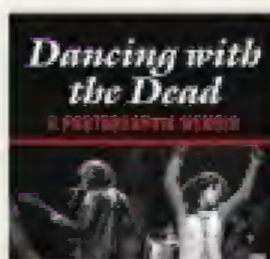


**Wired Up!**  
*Jeremy Thompson and Mary Blount!*  
(Wired Up Media)

Sometimes pop culture hits you right between the eyes. Much like its cousins the pinball machine and the kiddie cereal box, the '70s European picture sleeve has no truck with subtlety. These album covers perform all the heavy lifting of the just-around-the-corner music video in a single glance.

*Wired Up!* showcases full-color sleeve reproductions interspersed with interviews and remembrances from a few of the bands cranking out the glitter from the litter. Wild animals, cartoons and dodgy, shoulder-padded street gangs fight for your attention. Recommended!

*Robert Dyrenforth*



**Dancing with the Dead: A Photographic Memoir**  
*Rosie McGee*  
(Tioli Press & Bytes)

McGee was best known as the stage dancer in the golden days of the Grateful Dead; she was also the band's photographer, bookkeeper, travel agent, tie-dyer and translator for the '72 European tour. A free-love proponent, this freaky female Zelig has penned a memoir that's joyful and occasionally

heartbreaking, an always-honest backstage pass to the fabled long, strange trip. We meet Phil Spector, Lenny Bruce, Owsley, Ken Kesey, Hendrix, and, of course, McGee's Dead family. Most importantly, we get to know Rosie herself—an unrepentant and wise free spirit.

*Michael Simmons*



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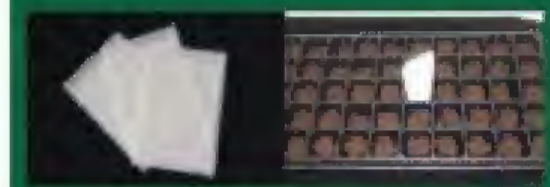
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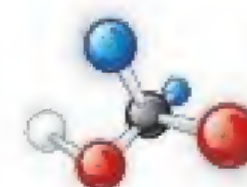
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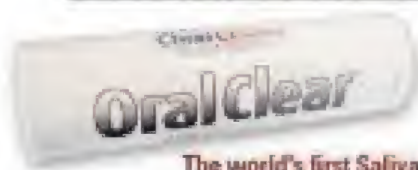
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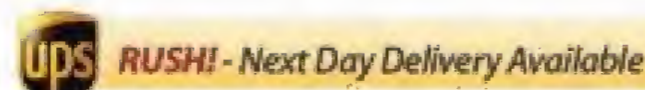
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## MUNCHIES

### Breaking Bad BHO Powerful dabs make tasty treats.

Anyone who's made dab-able concentrates has turned out a bad batch. Maybe your weed was mediocre. Maybe the terpenes fried instead of vaped. Whatever the reason, you don't want to share it with patients or friends, but you know the BHO is still safe for consumption. This is when you literally "eat it."

The repo method described below can be used to make any dish, but baked apples are

especially delicious.

Like rolling a joint, making these apples is simple, but doing them well is an art form. To result in a superior finished product, the components have to *want* to work together. I learned this philosophy while working for Jack Herer (the Heisenberg of hemp), who expected his joints to be *perfect*. "This is not a joint!" he'd lament if I handed him something that was too fat or too skinny, too bulgy or too tight. I'm grateful for the advice, which crosses over into so many other areas of life.

How is it that an apple "wants" to work with its filling? Via passionate preparation, careful coring, and an exquisite sense of balance before baking. A steady hand with the filling and an eye for detail during the crumbling and sprinkling stages will yield a dish that's the perfect joint at the end of a long, cool day. *Mary Ought Six*

#### "BAD" BAKED APPLES

- 2 globs BHO
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp dark brown sugar
- ¼ tsp cinnamon (times two)
- 4 dashes nutmeg
- 1 dash salt
- 2 large Honeycrisp, Pink Lady or Crispin apples (Granny Smith are also fine)

If you dab, you're likely familiar with the term "glob." In the interest of not sending anyone into a tailspin or coma, however, I'll lay out the dosage ratio. Since you know it's a nasty batch, you've dabbled it and determined its potency. If you'd likely take two to three dabs, then a glob per apple should be perfect. Globs—a.k.a. "double dabs," "chokers" and "gotchas"—are dabs on steroids, and not for the faint of heart or lung capacity. If a little dab'll do ya ....

First, preheat the oven to 320°F. Melt the butter in a double boiler, add the BHO and cook over low heat, stirring

occasionally, for 30 minutes. Put the mixture in the fridge to firm up a bit while you measure out the dry ingredients and prep the apples.

Halve both apples. Remove the stems and butts from all four halves with a paring knife, being careful not to make splits. Carve out the seeds and the protective area around them, leaving troughs big enough to accommodate one and a half tablespoons of liquid. Place in a shallow baking pan and add enough water to coat the pan's bottom.

Mix the brown sugar, salt, nutmeg, a quarter teaspoon of cinnamon and the BHO butter together until crumbly and completely combined. Spoon the mixture evenly into the troughs, then sprinkle the tops with another quarter teaspoon of cinnamon and place in the oven.

Bake the apples for 30 to 40 minutes. Bonnes pommes! *Stones 2.*

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- DO NOT ADD WATER!!!**

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- Step 3** Press the "1 Hour/Oil" button.
- Step 4** Strain to remove botanicals and your oil is ready to use.



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## Operation Green Merchant

A government attempt to take down *High Times* resulted in a witch-hunt for growers.

In our four decades of existence, there have been a number of attempts to shut us down. Self-righteous groups have periodically called for *HT* to be removed from newsstand shelves for the good of “the children”; several states passed laws in the 1970s reclassifying the magazine as “drug paraphernalia” and thus illegal to sell or possess; and subscriber lists have been requested by the Feds on occasion. (The Feds never got them.)

None of those ploys made much of a dent in *HT*'s circulation or advertising reve-

nue. But there was one federal effort, Operation Green Merchant, that had us on the run for a while. And we were only the collateral damage.

Operation Green Merchant was the brainchild of a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, Jim Stewart. In late 1987, while leafing through *HT*, Stewart was struck by ads for gardening equipment—all of which he presumed was intended solely for potgrowing. He urged the DEA to send agents to the gardening stores that advertised in *High Times* and have them ask leading questions about marijuana growing. Some of the storeowners and their employees were crazy enough to answer those questions rather than showing the undercovers the door. By late 1988, Stewart and the DEA had enough information to subpoena the records for all UPS deliveries from those stores—about 20,000 total from almost 30 businesses.

Green Merchant went public on Black Thursday, October

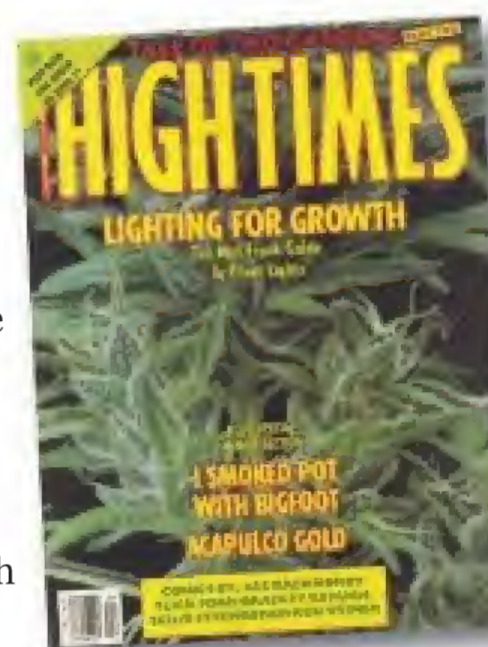
26, 1989, when federal agents and state and county police fanned out across the country and raided stores in 46 states. Books, merchandise and records were taken from more than three dozen stores; 11 store owners were arrested; and several stores were padlocked. One particularly sharp editor at the *HT* offices secured all of the Rolodexes and had them removed from the premises, just in case the DEA came for them.

Thousands of growers were busted in the following weeks. Thousands of other

people, growing nothing more illegal than tomatoes and zucchini, were asked to open their doors and allow federal agents to inspect their indoor gardens. Hundreds of homes, farms and cars were seized under asset-forfeiture laws.

For *High Times*, which depended on the garden centers as its primary source of ad revenue at the time, things got very tight. But for the thousands of individuals busted in these raids, things were far worse. Those stores that were allowed to remain open were put under full-time surveillance, with customers being followed back to their homes by state or federal agents. Dutch seed bank merchant Nevil Schoenmaker was chased across the globe, and thousands of people wound up in prison.

It was a devastating toll. *High Times* was lucky to survive and thrive—but an awful lot of people caught up in the operation's net didn't fare as well. Peter Gorman, former editor-in-chief. Visit [pgorman.com](http://pgorman.com).



In '89, Feds targeted garden centers.

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		Agent Orange	300
Arkansas	Fayetteville	Blue Dream	300
		Sour Diesel	320
California	San Francisco	Kosher Kush	300
		LA Confidential	280
Colorado	Cortez	Golden Goat	220
		Kryptonite	200
Delaware	Wilmington	Sensi Star	360
Florida	Orlando	SFV OG Kush	300
Georgia	Atlanta	Nebula	400
Hawaii	Big Island	Blueberry	350
Louisiana	New Orleans	White Widow	300
		Juicy Fruit	275
Maine	Portland	Jillybean	400
		Space Queen	380
Massachusetts	Boston	East Coast Sour Diesel	400
Michigan	Bay City Detroit	Cotton Candy	300
		Blue Ox	325
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Granddaddy Purps	225
Mississippi	Meridian	Lemon Haze	360
New Jersey	Hoboken	Green Crack	420
New York	Huntington New York	Platinum Kush	300
		Strawberry Cough	400
Ohio	Cincinnati	Sour Kush	275
Oregon	Eugene Hillsboro	Cheese	250
		Purplewreck	200
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Pittsburgh	Bubblegum	320
		Girl Scout Cookies	400
		Grape Ape	300
South Carolina	Lexington Orangeburg	Jack Herer	450
		Bubba Kush	350
Tennessee	Nashville	Commercial	160
Texas	Austin	Jack Herer	380
Virginia	Richmond	White Widow	400
		Purple Haze	360
Washington	Spokane	Nebula	200
		Strawberry Diesel	210
INTERNATIONAL			
Belgium	Brussels	Amnesia	\$370
Canada	Winnipeg	OG Kush	C\$270
Costa Rica	San José	Sour Diesel	\$480
England	London	Kong	£300
South Africa	Johannesburg	Kosher Kush	R4760

MARKET ANALYSIS

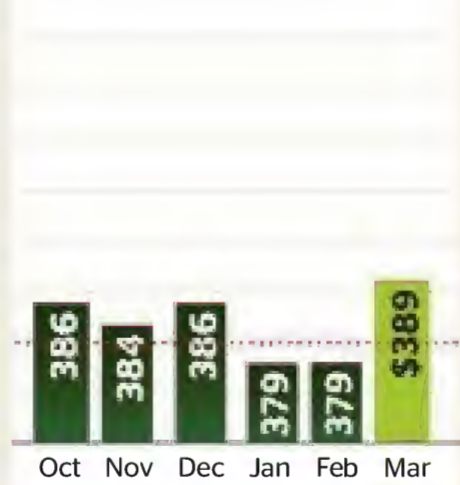
*Prices by the ounce*

After falling below \$300 an ounce in February, the US Price Index dropped an additional \$11 to hit a record low of \$286 per ounce in March. Meanwhile, the Kind Index continued to soar and finished March at a whopping average of \$389 per ounce. Diesel beat out Kush as the month's most submitted strain ending a 27-month stretch during which Kush finished first or tied for first.

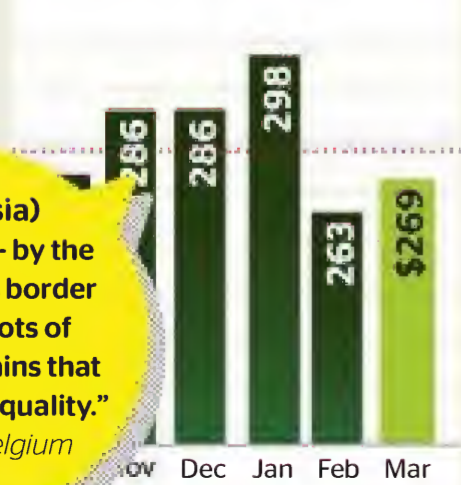
**US Price Index**  
YTD Average: \$302



**Kind Index**  
YTD Average: \$382



**Mids Index**  
YTD Average: \$277



**Schwag Index**  
YTD Average: \$100



**(Amnesia)**  
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*Brussels, Belgium*

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**(Kong)**  
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# TOP 40 STONER ANTHEMS

by Bobby Black

If there's one thing we've learned over the past four decades, it's that stoners come in all shapes, sizes, creeds and colors, and that weed fuels creativity. Okay, so that's two things .... Anyway, that's why there are artists in every genre of music who love weed and pay tribute to it in song, and we've collected the all-time best of 'em below. So whether you're into hip-hop or heavy metal, R&B or reggae, we guarantee these stoner anthems will speak to you. Because hey—as we've all come to learn, marijuana brings people together.

Alright, fine—three things, then!



## "Sweet Leaf" Black Sabbath

Masters of Reality (1971)

Opening with the sound of guitarist Tony Iommi coughing (presumably from a big hit of weed), Sabbath's love letter to Mary Jane was, at the time, the most blatant pro-pot song ever written, and remains hard rock's penultimate stoner anthem.

"Straight people don't know, what you're about / They put you down and shut you out / You gave to me a new belief / And soon the world will love you, sweet leaf."



## "Rainy Day Woman #12 & 35" Bob Dylan

Blonde on Blonde (1966)

Though not necessarily about smoking weed, Dylan's classic chorus "Everybody must get stoned!" will forever be a battle cry for stoners everywhere. Plus isn't it just a bit peculiar that 12 times 35 equals ... 420?!?



## "Hits From the Bong" Cypress Hill

Black Sunday (1993) Obviously, we could fill half this list with the weed songs these guys have recorded, but this seems the most iconic to us. Cypress Hill's cannabis classic opens with a bubbling bong and ends with the satisfied exhale of "Gonna get high." In between, the pot pioneers of hip-hop lay down some of the best reefer rhymes of all time.

"Inhale, exhale / Just got a ounce in the mail / I like a blunt or a big fat bowl / But my double-barrel bong is gettin' me stoned .... Hits from

the bong / Gonna get high."



## "Mary Jane" Rick James

Come Get It! (1978) This Top 5 hit from the Superfreak's debut album refers to a promiscuous woman who ambiguously sounds like a drug. Is it just a coincidence that James chose the words "If Mary wanna play around?" Highly doubtful.

"I'm in love with Mary Jane / She's my main thing / She makes me feel alright / She makes my heart sing."



## "Legalize It" Peter Tosh

Legalize It (1976) This title track from former Wailer Peter Tosh's debut solo

album says it all: It's a passionate plea to any and all who will listen to legalize the righteous herb, making the case by citing its medical uses and the different types of folks and animals who love it. A timeless rallying cry for activists everywhere. "Some call it tampee / Some call it the weed / Some call it marijuana / Some of them call it ganja / Every man got to legalize it, and don't criticize it / Legalize it, yeah, yeah, and I will advertise it."



## "Kaya" Bob Marley

Kaya (1978) Everyone knows that ganja is the Rasta word for cannabis ... but fewer know that among the many reported meanings of the word kaya (including "home," "wise child" and "pure"), it's also slang for marijuana. One thing's clear: It's something Marley's got to have. "I feel so high, I even touch the sky .... Feelin' irie I 'cause I have some kaya now."



## "Gin and Juice" Snoop Dogg

Doggystyle (1993) Snoop's solo debut, which helped define gangsta rap, included this classic about getting fucked up while cruising around the hood with your homeys and hoes. D-O-double-G ... yeeeah, beeeotch! "So we gonna smoke a ounce to this .... My homey Dr. Dre came through with a gang of Tanqueray / And a fat-ass J, of some bubonic chronic .... Rollin down the street, smokin' indo, sippin' on gin and juice."



## "How High" Method Man & Redman

Blackout! (1999) The last track on the debut album by this dank-tastic duo from the Wu-Tang Clan, this song inspired the classic stoner hip-hop movie of the same name. "It's the funk Doctor Spock smokin' buddha on a train / HOW HIGH? So high that I can kiss the sky."



## "Because I Got High" Afroman

The Good Times (2001) On the one hand, the lyrics reinforce the unfair stereotype that stoners are lazy and irresponsible. On the other hand, it's one catchy-ass tune that was featured in one of our favorite stoner movies (Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back), plus the album art is modeled after a High Times cover. Love it or hate it, there's no denying it's one of the best-known pot songs ever written. "I was gonna go to work, but then I got high / I just got a new promotion, but I got high / Now I'm selling dope and I know why / Because I got high, because I got high, because I got high."



## "Smoke Two Joints" Sublime

40 Oz. to Freedom (1992) The band that brought white-boy reggae to the masses also brought along the Rastas' love of ganja. Case in point: their cover of this little ditty by the Toyes from their debut album, which became one of Sublime's biggest radio hits. It was also featured in Kevin Smith's stoner comedy Mallrats, which only adds to its cool factor.

*"I smoke two joints in the morning / I smoke two joints at night / I smoke two joints in the afternoon / It makes me feel all right .... I smoke two joints before I smoke two joints / And then I smoke two more."*



**"I Like Marijuana"**  
**David Peel & the Lower East Side**

*Have a Marijuana* (1968)  
Few artists have embodied the love of weed and the fight for its legalization more than this marijuana minstrel discovered by John Lennon in New York City's Washington Square Park in the late 1960s. His songs, though simplistic, have provided the soundtrack for pot protests and rallies over the decades, and his enthusiasm remains undiminished to this day. "Mari ... marijuana / Mari ... marijuana / Mari ... marijuana / I like marijuana, you like marijuana, we like marijuana too."



**"Reefer Man"**  
**Cab Calloway**

Single (1932)  
No list of stoner anthems would be complete without this pre-prohibition pot song from the original Reefer Man, jazz legend (and weed dealer) Cab Calloway. Featured in the 1933 film *International House*. "Have you ever met

*this funny reefer man, reefer man? / Oh baby baby baby, reefer man, reefer man / If he trades you dimes for nickels / And calls watermelons pickles / Then you know you're talkin' to that reefer man."*



**"I'm So Stoned"**  
**Slightly Stoopid**

*The Longest Barrel Ride* (1998)  
These reggae-punk superstars made their love of weed well known early in their careers. This chill jam from their second album is short but oh-so-sweet. "I'm so stoned / And I'm free / So free / Said if you roll another spliff, sir / Won't cha pass it right over to me."



**"Marijuana"**  
**Kid Cudi**

*Man on the Moon II: The Legend of Mr. Rager* (2010)  
One of today's hottest young hip-hop artists, Cudi and his pal Shia LaBeouf shot the video for this song before, during and after his performance at our 2009 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. "Pretty green bud all in my blunt / Oh, I need it / We can take off, yeah / Oh, I know you wanna smoke ... marijuana."



**"Kush"**  
**Dr. Dre (featuring Snoop Dogg & Akon)**

Digital single (2010)  
Death Row OGs Snoop and Dre reunited for this dank digital download about the most celebrated strain on the West Coast. "Now this, that puff, puff, pass shit / Cheech and Chong glass shit / We roll shit that burn slow as fucking molasses / Probably won't pass it, smoke it till the last hit / Down to the ashes."



**"With a Little Help from My Friends"**  
**The Beatles**

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)  
Though they certainly smoked a lot of pot, the Beatles didn't sing too openly about it. Except, of course, in the chorus to this classic track. "I get by with a little help from my friends / Oh, I get high with a little help from my friends."



**"The Joker"**  
**Steve Miller Band**

*The Joker* (1973)  
We have no idea what Mr. Miller meant when he spoke of the "pom-patus of love," but we sure know what he meant when he admitted to being a "midnight toker." "I'm a joker / I'm a smoker / I'm a midnight toker."



**"Under Mi Sensi"**  
**Barrington Levy**

Single (1985)  
The king of dancehall's famous patois pot song remains one of reggae's most recognizable ganja anthems. "After mi stand up round volcano sound & a bun mi ganja pipe / Babylon come & tell mi dat nuh right / Mi sey mi bun it & pass it on the right."



**"Roll Me Up (and Smoke Me When I Die)"**  
**Willie Nelson**

*Heroes* (2012)  
One of marijuana's true living legends teams up with Snoop Dogg, Kris Kristofferson and Jamey Johnson to inform us of his post-mortem wish: Like *High Times* founder Tom Forçade, he wants his ashes to be smoked by his pals. "You won't see no sad and teary eyes / When I get my wings and it's my time to fly / Just call my friends and tell them / There's a party, come on by / And just roll me up and smoke me when I die."



**"You Don't Know How It Feels"**  
**Tom Petty**

*Wildflowers* (1994)  
It's rare that a song with a line about

smoking weed hits No. 1 on the *Billboard* chart, but this one sure did; whether being censored by MTV and most radio stations helped or hindered is entirely another matter.

"So let's get to the point / Let's roll another joint."



**"Come Around"**  
**Collie Buddz**

*Collie Buddz* (2007)  
This reefer reggae hit was all the rage around the *HT* office when it came out. "Finally the herbs come around / The high grade when me a look for me / Get it by the pound, yeah."

**"Don't Bogart Me"**  
**Fraternity of Man**

*Fraternity of Man* (1968)  
Featured in the counterculture film classic *Easy Rider*, this one-hit (no pun intended) wonder helped turn the word "Bogart" from a proper noun into a verb. "Don't bogart that joint, my friend / Pass it over to me / Roll another one / Just like the other one / This one's burnt to the end / Come on and be a friend."



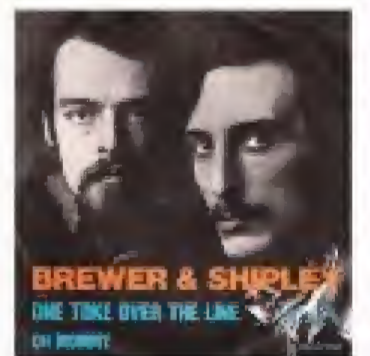
**"I Got 5 On It"**  
**Luniz**

*Operation Stackola* (1995)  
On this old-school hip-hop track, Yukmouth raps about going halvesies with his buddy on a dime bag because he's too broke to buy one himself. Talk about keepin' it real. "I got five on it / Grab ya four, let's get keyed / I got five on it / Messin' wit' dat indo weed / I got five on it / It's got me stuck and towed back / I got five on it, potna / Let's go half on a sack."



**"A Passage to Bangkok"** - Rush

*2112* (1977)  
A song about drug tourism that, according to guitarist Alex Lifeson, may have been somewhat inspired by an early issue of *High Times*. "Wreathed in smoke in Lebanon / We burn the midnight oil / The fragrance of Afghanistan / Rewards a long day's toil / Pulling into Katmandu / Smoke rings fill the air."



**"One Toke Over the Line"**  
**Brewer & Shipley**

*Tarkio* (1970)  
This folksy tune about being a bit too high has become a counterculture classic, and it was one of the songs featured in the film adaptation of Hunter Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* with Johnny Depp. "One toke over the line, sweet Jesus / One toke over the line /

*The Original*

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*Sittin' downtown in a railway station / One toke over the line."*



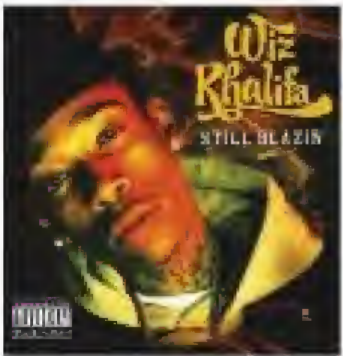
**"Don't Step on the Grass, Sam" Steppenwolf**

*The Second* (1968) Probably the coolest anti-prohibition song ever written, by the band who coined the term "heavy metal." It doesn't get much better than that. "Sam is sayin' casually / I was elected by the masses' / And with that in mind he starts to unwind / A vicious attack on the finest of grasses."



**"Let's Go Get Stoned" Ray Charles**

*Crying Time* (1966) Originally made famous by Ray Charles in 1966, this R&B hit was then covered by Joe Cocker at Woodstock a few years later. Though the song is actually about drinking gin, it's not hard to see how stoners can co-opt it. "Everybody ... let's go get stoned / Oh ... let's go get stoned."



**"Still Blazin'" Wiz Khalifa (feat. Al Borosie)**  
*Kush & Orange Juice* (2010)  
Snoop's pothead

protégé dished up this love letter to Mary Jane as a free download from his independent mixtape *Kush & Orange Juice*—so named because, according to Wiz, "it's perfect for wake-and-bake." "Still blazin', still blazin', still blazin' / 'Cause ganja power it's so amazin' / Give me the strength and protection, keep praisin' / Each and everydayeee .... Why can't everyone just smoke like me? / Just gimme quiet place and lemme roll my weed."



**"30 Days in the Hole" - Humble Pie**

*Smokin'* (1972) This is such a fun song that it's hard to believe it's about getting busted and doing hard time for drug possession. Bummer, man .... "Chicago Green / Talkin' 'bout Red Lebanese ... Black Nepalese / It got you weak in your knees / Only seeds and dust that you got bust on / You know it's hard to believe."



**"Sinsemilla" Black Uhuru**  
*Sinsemilla* (1980) One of Jamaica's most enduring ganja classics, by the group who won the first-ever Grammy for Best Reggae Album. "I've got a stalk of sinsemilla / Growing in my back yard .... Free the herb / Heal the nation / Heal the sick."



**"Rollin' Dem Bones" - Blue Cheer**

*What Doesn't Kill You ...* (2007) These early pioneers of American metal were best known for their hit cover of Eddie Cochran's "Summertime Blues," but it wasn't until reuniting decades later that they recorded this hard and heavy blues-based anthem for the ages. "Meet at 4:20 'cause that's where I live / Look for a place to throw stones / You bring your stash and I'll bring my own / You bring your bong / And I'll keep on rollin' dem bones."



**"Hold It Now, Hit It" Beastie Boys**

*Licensed to Ill* (1986) The Beasties' debut album makes it known from the get-go that these Boys like to party and ain't afraid to fight for their right to do so—whether it be chuggin' Thunderbird, sniffin' glue or puffin' a fattie (as the chorus to this first single clearly illustrates). "Hold it now, hit it / Yo Leroy! / Pass that joint on over / Yo man, pass that over here man, all right."



**"If You're a Viper" (a.k.a. "The Reefer Song") - Leroy "Stuff" Smith**

Single (1937) Along with Cab Calloway's "Reefer Man," this song epitomized the rise of marijuana culture during the jazz age. Back then, "viper" was the slang term of choice for what we would now call a stoner. "Dreamed about a reefer five feet long .... You'll be high, but not for long / If you're a viper."



**"Panama Red" New Riders of the Purple Sage**

*The Adventures of Panama Red* (1973) Named after a particularly ruddy strain of weed from Central America, this country-rock track tells the tale of a lascivious traveler who's a thinly veiled guise for the kind. "He keeps well hidden underground .... Nobody feels like working / Panama Red is back in town."



**"Hail the Leaf" Down**

*NOLA* (1995) Vocalist Phil Anselmo and his former Pantera bandmates were more pro-pot than any metal band in history, and that passion for herb continues in his current band Down. This song features a "water pipe solo." "So I just smoke / Let me feel stoned / Smoke .... / Stoned"



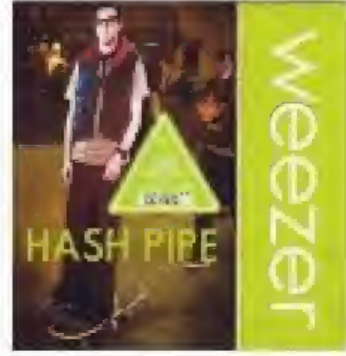
**"Must Be the Ganja" Eminem**

*Relapse* (2009) Apparently, there was at least one drug that Marshall Mathers didn't give up after his brief stint in rehab, as evidenced by this catchy cannabis-infused tune. "Big bags of the grass, Zig-Zags, I'm with the Doc, so .... 'Bout time that you wake the fuck up, smell the pot smoke / It must be the ganja, it's the marijuana / That's creepin' up on me, I'm so high."



**"Spacegrass" Clutch**

*Clutch* (1995) Stoner jam metal masters Clutch bring their A-game with this track about cruising around the universe in a 1973 Dodge Swinger and puffin' down on some galactic ganj. "Hey kid, are you going my way? / Hop in, we'll have ourselves a field day / We'll find us some spacegrass / Lay low, watch the universe expand."



**"Hash Pipe" Weezer**

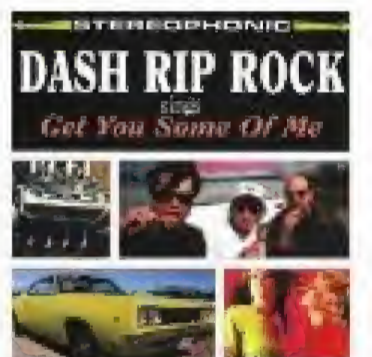
*Weezer* (2001) What does a male transvestite prostitute in Santa Monica have to do with smoking hash? Don't

ask us—ask Weezer! Regardless, whenever this song comes on the radio, we can't help but chime in on the chorus. "You've got your problems / I've got my ass wide / You've got your big G's / I've got my hash pipe."



**"Moist Vagina" Nirvana**

B-side, "All Apologies" single (1993) Okay, so the title and first verse of this droning, impromptu-sounding jam by the kings of grunge are explicit and rather lewd ... but hey—after that part, Kurt Cobain screams "Marijuana!" over and over and over again. "Marijuana! / Marijuana! / Marijuana!"



**"(Let's Go) Smoke Some Pot" Dash Rip Rock**

*Dash Rip Rock Sings: Get You Some of Me* (1995) Originally intended to poke fun at hippie jam bands, this parody of the doo-wop classic "At the Hop" has been adopted by stoners as a goofy, pro-pot party song. "Well, you can smoke it, you can chew it / You can really try and do it / Smokin' pot / You can sing it in a song / You can smoke it in a bong / Smokin' pot / Well, it's the latest sensation that's sweepin' the nation .... Let's go smoke some pot!" ✨

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# HIGH TIMES 2014 Seed Bank Hall of Fame

*High Times* proudly announces new additions to our prestigious list of the world's greatest preservers and improvers of marijuana genetics.

*By Danny Danko*

Green Alien from LaPlata Labs truly glistens with shiny trichomes.

## La Plata Labs

[laplatalabs.com](http://laplatalabs.com)

La Plata Labs were started high in the mountains of La Plata County, Colorado, at 7,000 feet of elevation, when a group of skilled breeders came together to collect and create some of the strongest (and prettiest) marijuana strains in the world. La Plata's first release was their Hybrid Series, consisting of Alien crosses, OG Kush hybrids and various Skunks that they've been stabilizing for years. They plan to release feminized versions of the Hybrid Series next.

We first noticed La Plata's beautiful bud shots on Facebook and became determined to find out more about their prime pot varieties. Their Green Alien (Skunk x Lemon Alien) is a pungent, pure *indica* that flowers in eight to nine weeks. Big Skunk is an easy-to-grow strain that harks back to the days of Road Kill Skunk, with a strong, distinct scent that lingers on the tongue. As tasty as they are fine-looking, La Plata strains are sure to delight growers and connoisseurs alike.

501st OG from Rare Dankness grown by River Rock Wellness grows into dense power-packed nuggets.

## Rare Dankness

*raredankness.com*

Scott founded Rare Dankness in 2010, but anyone who remembers the heyday of 1990s Internet cultivation sites like *Overgrow.com* will be familiar with him as “Moonshine Man” of the Devil’s Harvest Crew and Moonshine Seeds. He traded and shared genetics with the best of them—and, to his credit, still does so to this day. “We can’t beat cancer or find a cure for the world’s sickness without openly sharing genetics and information,” Scott says.

Rare Dankness burst onto the scene with a first-place win for Best *Sativa* at the 2011 Cannabis Cup with their Moonshine Haze. Since then, they’ve racked up awards around the world, including many big wins by the dispensaries that grew out their strains. Their OG Ghost Train Haze even won the title of *High Times*’ Strongest Strain on Earth in 2012 with a whopping 25.49% THC level!

In recognition of their latest honor, Scott says: “Everyone at Rare Dankness thanks *High Times* and its supporters for paving the way and inspiring myself alongside many others into believing that we could (will) end the prohibition against cannabis. My dedication to this plant is a reflection of the inspiration you’ve provided.”

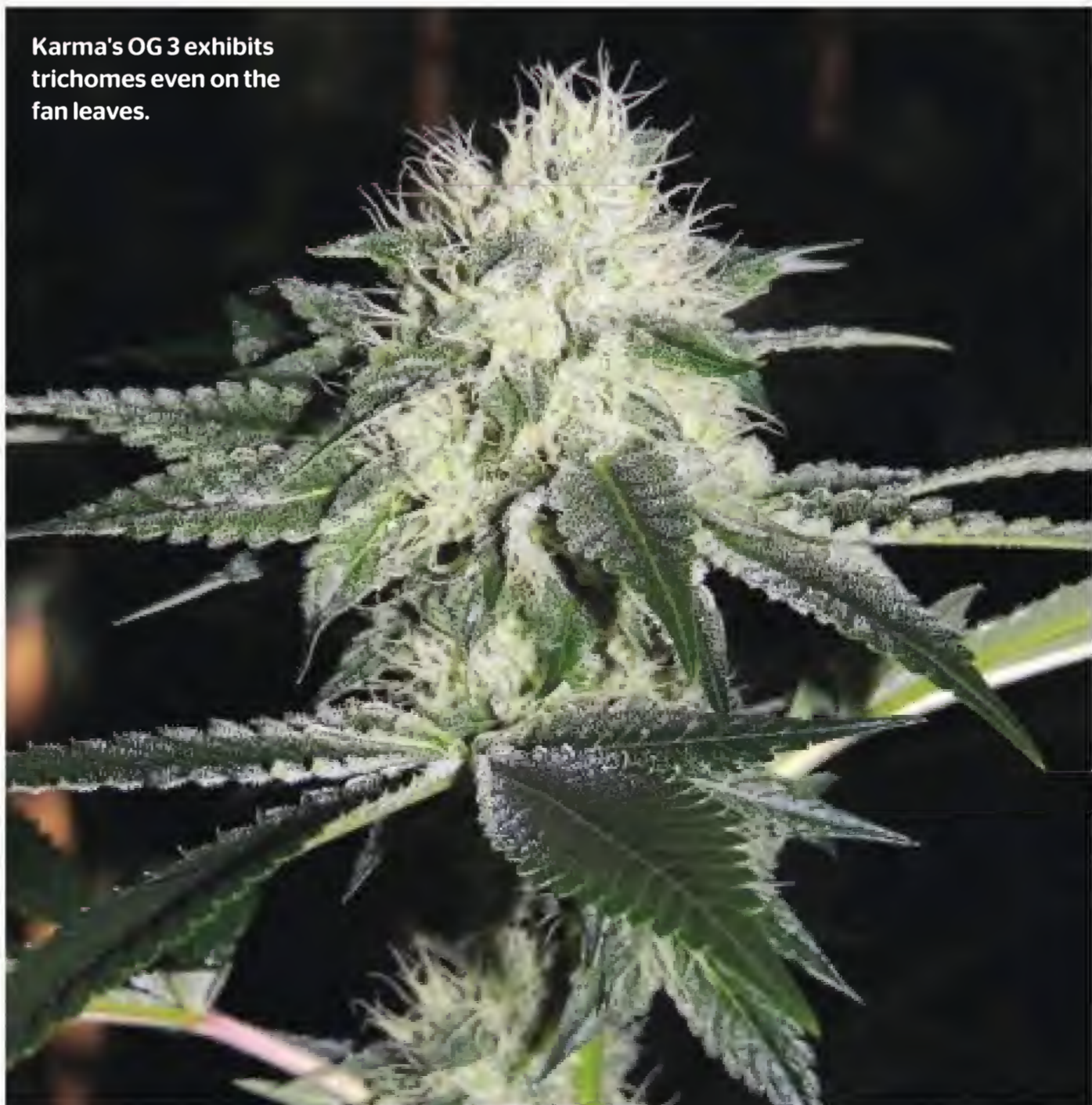
## Karma Genetics

*karmagenetics.com*

Like many Dutch children growing up, Karma, the breeder behind Karma Genetics, experimented with outdoor growing from an early age—and after nurturing his first crop outside, he was hooked. Another *Overgrow.com* alumni, Karma traded clones and seeds online in order to develop a quiver of interesting breeding stock to choose from. After years of working with elite genetics, he was able to produce some truly incredible award-winning strains.

Karma won third-place *indica* at the 2010 Cannabis Cup for his White OG, and took home third-place *sativa* for Dominator the very next year. Also, his Biker Kush and Ghost rider OG are two of the finest and most intoxicating varieties available in seed form. He’s especially excited about a special strain known as Happy Brother, an intense *indica* that has been shown to have some very interesting medicinal properties in initial testing. Look for Karma Genetics to win even more marijuana prizes in the years to come.

Karma’s OG 3 exhibits trichomes even on the fan leaves.



# Silika



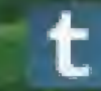
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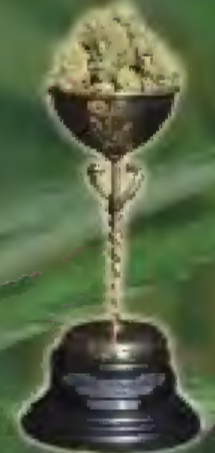
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Big Sky OG is sure to win more awards for Elemental Seeds.



## Elemental Seeds

*elementalseeds.com*

Founded in 2010, Elemental Seeds grew out of a partnership of award-winning breeders and growers at the Elemental Wellness Center in San Jose, CA, one of the finest medical marijuana collectives run by activist patients, which seeks to provide only the best cannabis, concentrates and edibles. They're famous for their multiple Medical Cannabis Cup winner, the True OG, a cross of Thai, Pakistani and Chem genetics that continuously amazes judges year after year. In a contest with many OG hybrids, the True OG always shines through.

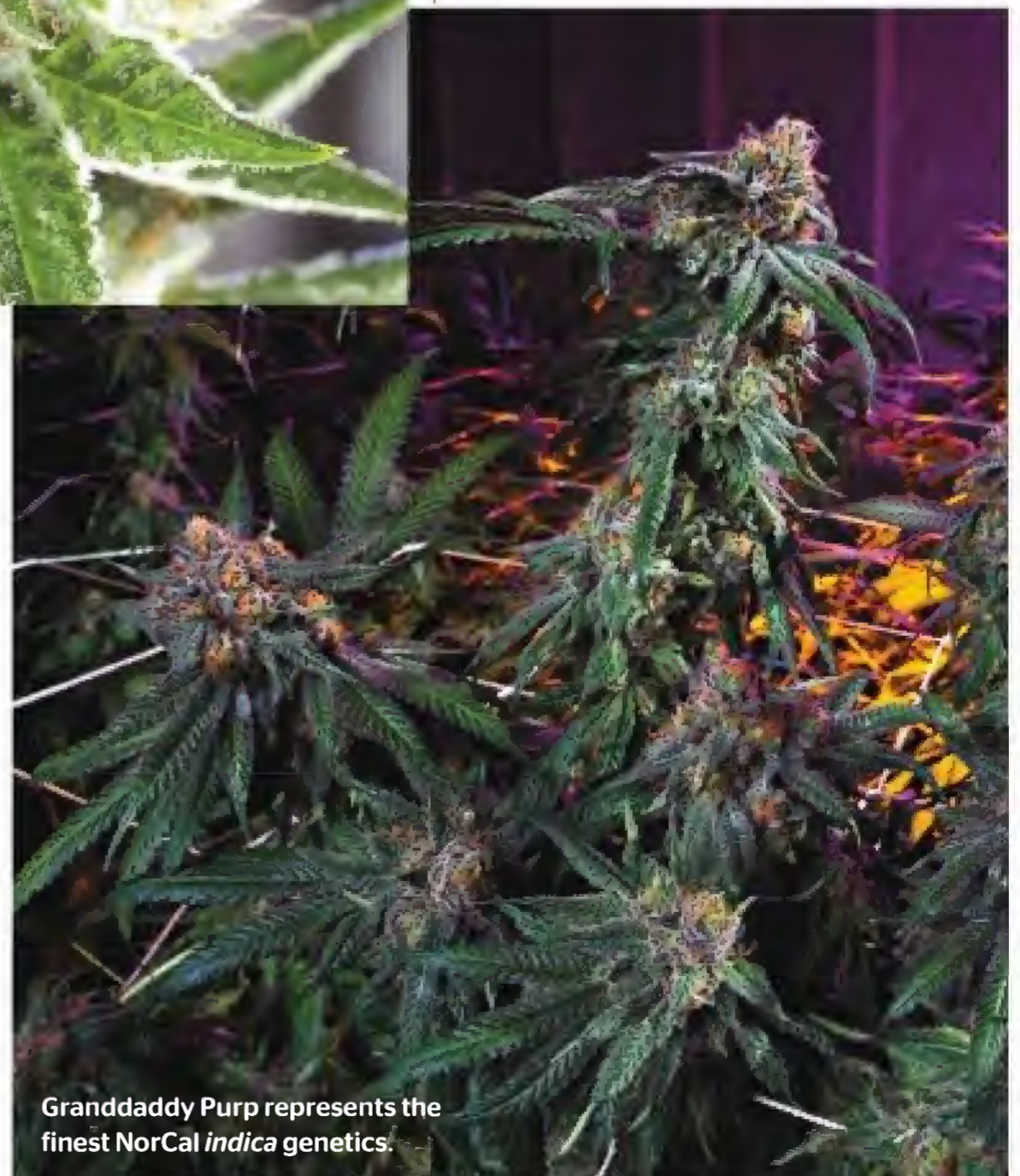
Because they're affiliated with a dispensary, Elemental Seeds focuses strongly on the medicinal aspects of their strains, particularly their high-CBD Jamaican Lion. Extensive lab testing, meticulous growing practices and rigorous quality control ensure that no mold, pesticides or PGRs (plant-growth regulators) are present on any of their plants or seeds. For a special medicinal treat, try Banana Kush, a fruity, sweet, award-winning strain that actually tastes like bananas!

## Grand Daddy Purp Genetics

*Granddaddypurp.com*

Ken Estes has been waging a decades-long fight for cannabis freedom after being paralyzed from the neck down in a motorcycle accident as a teen. His ardent activism has always been coupled with the desire to improve the quality of medical marijuana for patients worldwide. He started his first Grand Daddy Purp collective in 2003 and experienced raids and many other challenges as a result. Today, Ken's six collectives sell Grand Daddy Purp's branded strains, as well as seeds and clones, to thousands of patients throughout California.

Their Bay 11 took home first-place *sativa* at the 2011 San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup, but it's the flagship strain Granddaddy Purp that truly put them on the marijuana map. Granddaddy Purp is a soothing *indica* with a strong body high that nevertheless enables its users to maintain their focus. Its dark purple hues and sweet grape-candy flavor make it an absolute mainstay in the Bay Area and beyond. Grand Daddy Purp also provides seeds for their strains to California medical marijuana patients at all of their locations.

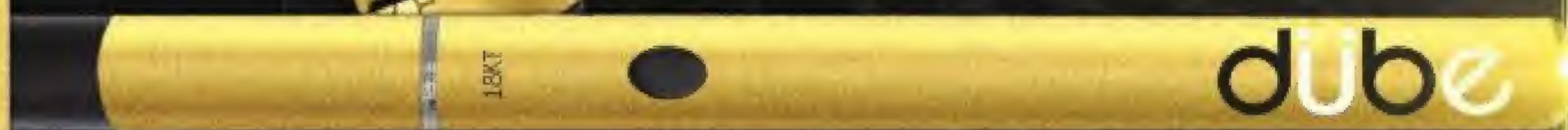


Granddaddy Purp represents the finest NorCal *indica* genetics.

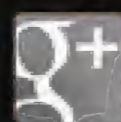


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Grimace OG won third place for best *indica* at the 2013 LA Medical Cannabis Cup.

## Archive Seed Bank

[archiveseedbank.com](http://archiveseedbank.com)

Another company created in the aftermath of *Overgrow.com's* takedown, Archive was founded in 2011 by original Internet forum contributor ThaDocta. Collecting and preserving rare and exotic strains from all over the world for more than a decade, ThaDocta built up an extensive mother-plant list with over 60 distinct varieties.

Archive's Bomb Threat won third-place *indica* at the 2013 San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup, and their Grimace OG won third-place *indica* in Los Angeles the same year; meanwhile, concentrates made from Archive strains have scored notable victories as well. And with over 30 strains to choose from, you're sure to find a keeper here.

ThaDocta says: "We'd like to pay respect to the growers that risked their freedom to preserve these lines and personally allowed us to breed with these guaranteed authentic cannabis varieties. We're happy to bring back some of the rarest genetics in the US cannabis genome and unleash the most unique 'lost' varieties into the growrooms of demanding connoisseurs worldwide."

### Esteemed Seed Bank Pioneers

(inducted Oct. '07)

Sacred Seeds/Cultivator's Choice

The Seed Bank

Super Sativa Seed Club (SSSC)

Lowlands Weed/Seed Company

Positronics

### Seed Bank Hall of Fame Members

(inducted Oct. '07)

Sensi Seeds/Sensi Seed Club  
Known for Jack Herer  
[sensiseeds.com](http://sensiseeds.com)

Flying Dutchmen  
Known for the Real McCoy  
[flyingdutchmen.com](http://flyingdutchmen.com)

T.H.Seeds/CIA KGB  
Known for S.A.G.E.  
[thseeds.com](http://thseeds.com)

Paradise Seeds  
Known for Sensi Star  
[paradise-seeds.com](http://paradise-seeds.com)

Serious Seeds  
Known for AK-47  
[seriousseeds.com](http://seriousseeds.com)

AK-47



Soma Seeds  
Known for Lavender  
[somaseeds.nl](http://somaseeds.nl)

Green House Seeds  
Known for White Widow  
[greenhouseseeds.nl](http://greenhouseseeds.nl)

Legends/DJ Short  
Known for Blueberry  
[hempdepot.ca/seeds/dj\\_short](http://hempdepot.ca/seeds/dj_short)

Reeferman Seeds  
Known for Love Potion #1  
[medicinalmss.com](http://medicinalmss.com)

Sagarmatha Seeds  
Known for Wonderberry  
[highestseeds.com](http://highestseeds.com)



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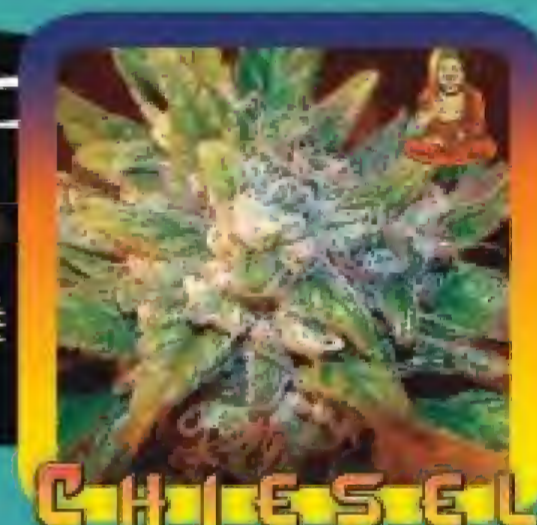
**CRISPY GEEK**



**CHEESE DAWG**



**BUBBLE CHEESE**



**CHIESEL**



**LA CHEESE**



**FREEZE CHEESE 89**



**cheesus**



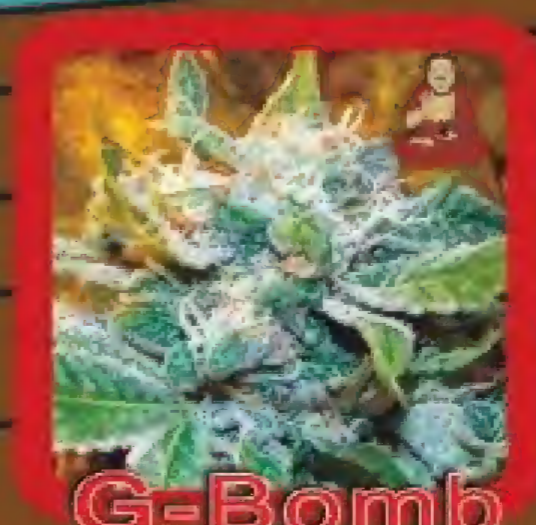
**SILVER LNEESE**



**Buddha Tahoe**



**Hali Kush**



**G-Bomb**

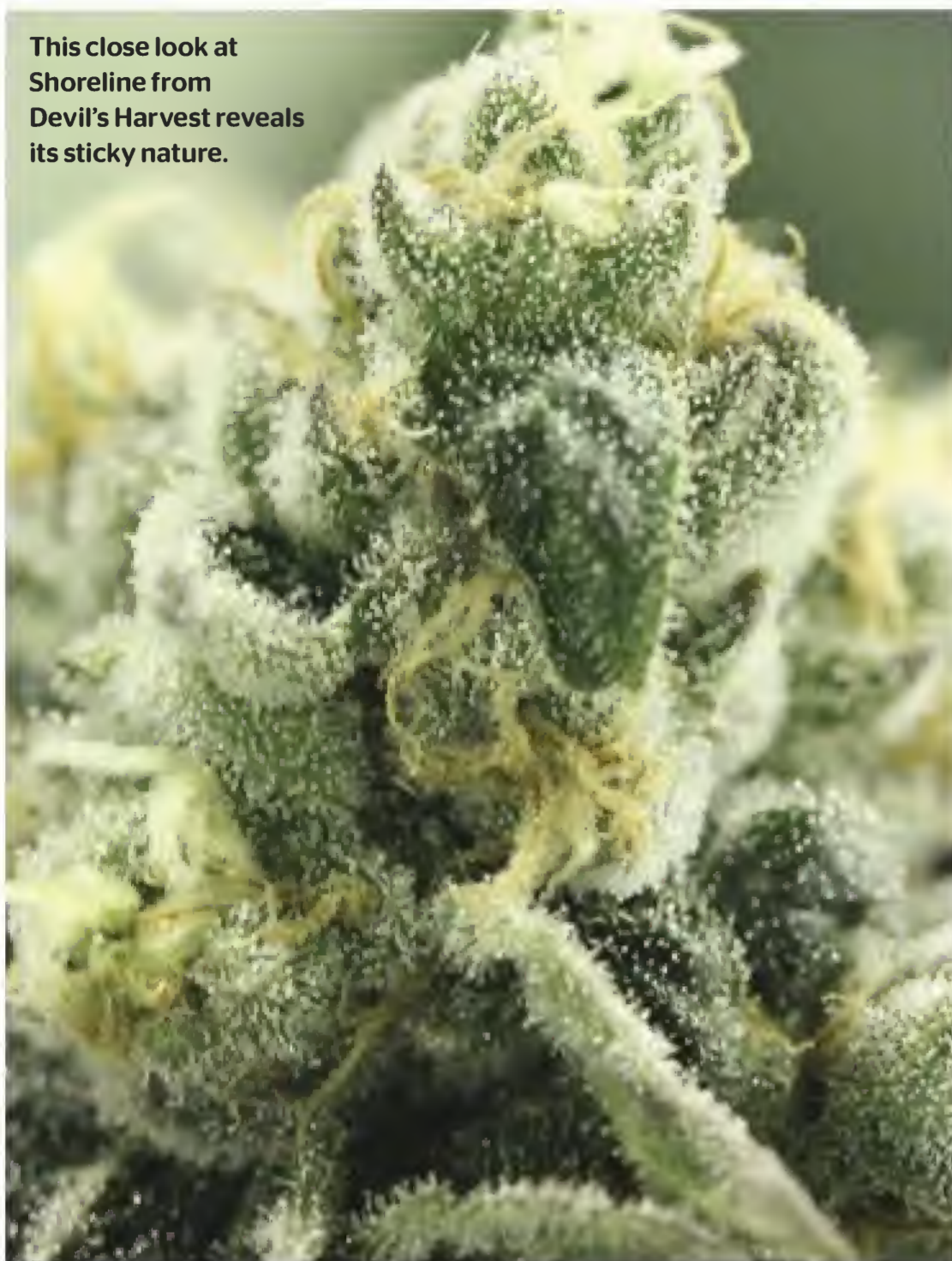


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This close look at Shoreline from Devil's Harvest reveals its sticky nature.

### Devil's Harvest

*thedevilsharvestseeds.com*

Devil's Harvest made a splash by taking home second place at the 25th Annual Cannabis Cup in 2012 (winning for the Green Place coffeeshop) with their Shoreline strain, a Sensi Skunk hybrid that reputedly spread out from a Grateful Dead show at the Shoreline Amphitheater years ago. It's a super-sticky and very stinky strain that grows into dense, greasy nuggets covered in trichomes. The taste mirrors the smell, with a skunky flavor that lingers on the tongue.

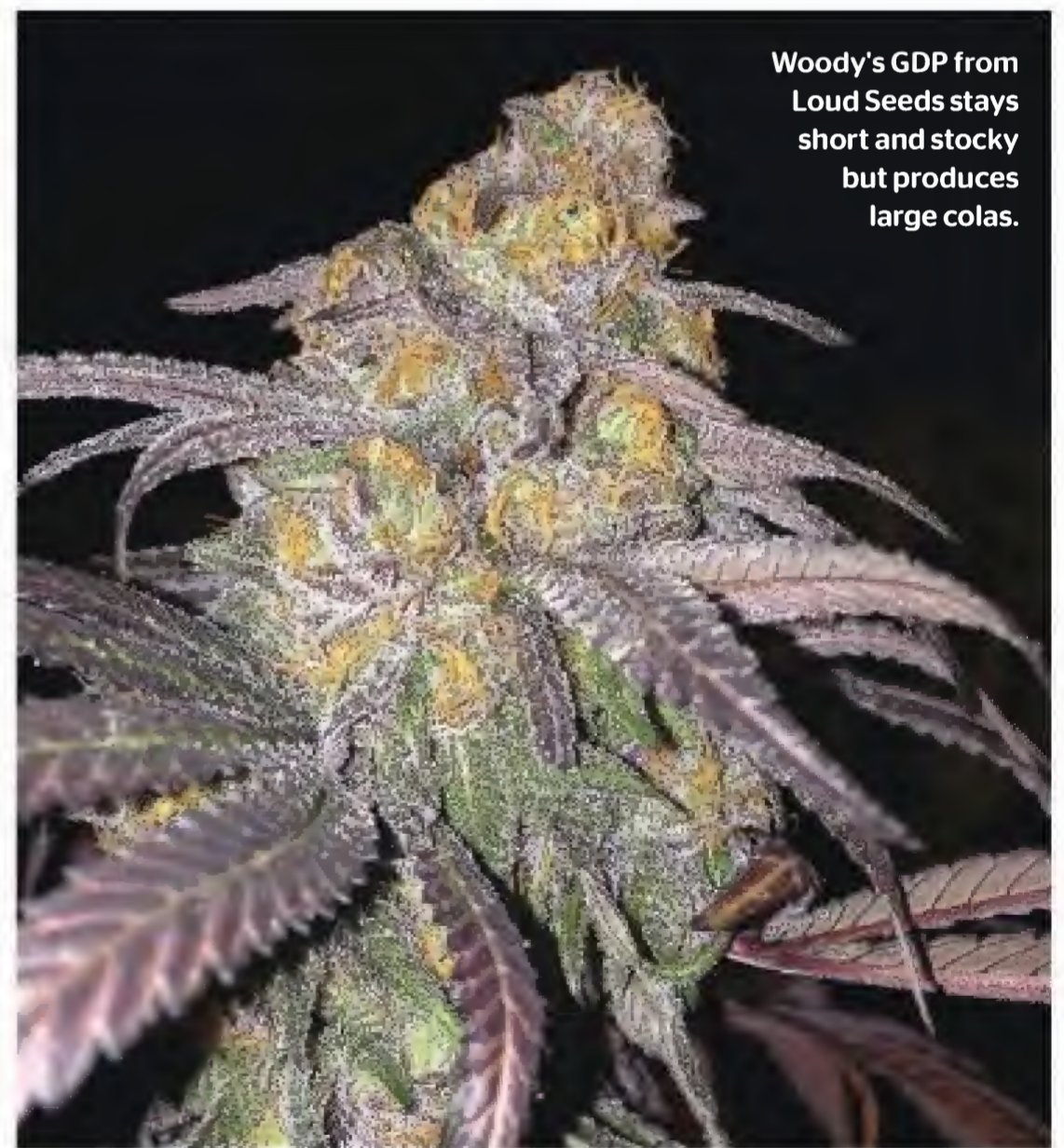
These days, Devil's Harvest are all about veganics, using OG-Tea to produce their prized pot. The cleaner-burning herb that results will certainly continue to win awards even in a tough field of competitors, and the genetics are consistently top-notch. A representative of the company told me, "We're honored and humbled to be included on this list. Keep up the great work, and we'll see you all at the next Cannabis Cup!"

### Loud Seeds

*loudseeds.com*

Loud Seeds formed as a collaboration between a couple of Northern California growers seeking to breed the highest-quality strains from their area and beyond. Head geneticist James Loud and his partner, Mike Seeds, then brought their Loud Scout (Girl Scout Cookies x Platinum OG Kush) to the 2012 Cannabis Cup and took home first-place hybrid in a shocking defeat of many worthy and longer-established competitors. Loud Seeds' version of Headband then went on to win Best Hybrid at the 2013 Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco. Their latest project has been to stabilize their Ganja Farmer OG, a new strain endorsed by reggae singer Marlon Asher.

James and Mike offer these words of thanks: "Loud Seeds is extremely honored to receive this award. We're in the midst of what may be one of the most influential industries of the future—one that can positively impact mankind for years to come, far exceeding our lifespan. We'd like to thank everyone at *High Times*, as well as Sensi Seeds, Green House, Dutch Passion, Legends, Serious Seeds, and fellow Americans Soma, DNA Genetics and T.H.Seeds, all of whom helped pave the way to this amazing reality!"



Woody's GDP from Loud Seeds stays short and stocky but produces large colas.

#### Seed Bank Hall of Fame Members

(inducted Aug. '09)

**BC Bud Depot**  
Known for BC God Bud  
*bcbuddepot.com*

**Big Buddha Seeds**  
Known for Cheese  
*bigbuddhaseeds.com*

**Barney's Farm**  
Known for Dr. Grinspoon  
*barneysfarm.com*

**Delta 9 Labs**  
Known for CannaSutra  
*delta9labs.com*

**DNA Genetics**  
Known for LA Confidential  
*dnagenetics.com*

**Vancouver Island Seed Company**  
Known for GSPOT  
*vancouverseed.com*

**Next Generation Seed Company**  
Known for Island Sweet Skunk  
*nextgenerationseed.com*

**Dutch Passion**  
Known for Power Plant  
*dutch-passion.nl*

**High Bred Seeds/Joint Doctor/LowRyder**  
Known for Lowrider  
*lowryder.co.uk*

**Subcool Seeds/TGA/The Green Avengers**  
Known for Vortex  
*tgagenetics.com*

Vortex



COURTESY OF DEVIL'S HARVEST, COURTESY OF LOUD SEEDS



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [OPENVAPE.COM](http://OPENVAPE.COM)

SWEET

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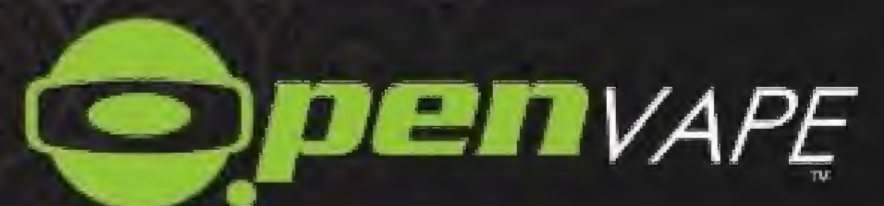
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**Seed Bank Hall of Fame Members**

(inducted June '11)

**Mr. Nice Seed Bank**  
Known for Nevil's Haze  
[mrnice.nl](http://mrnice.nl)

**Resin Seeds**  
Known for Cannatonic  
[resinseeds.net](http://resinseeds.net)

**Magus Genetics**  
Known for Warlock  
[seriousseeds.com](http://seriousseeds.com)

**Homegrown Fantaseeds**  
Known for Blue Haze  
[homegrown-fantaseeds.com](http://homegrown-fantaseeds.com)

**Mandala Seeds**  
Known for Satori  
[mandalaseeds.com](http://mandalaseeds.com)

**Dr. Greenthumb**  
Known for Iranian Autoflower  
[drgreenthumb.com](http://drgreenthumb.com)

**Chimera Seeds**  
Known for Shiskaberry,  
[chimeraseeds.nl](http://chimeraseeds.nl)

**Bonguru Beans**  
Known for Rock Star  
[bonguruseeds.com](http://bonguruseeds.com)

**Dinafem Seeds**  
Known for Critical+  
[dinafem-seeds.com](http://dinafem-seeds.com)

**Cali Connection**  
Known for SFV OG Kush  
[thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk](http://thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk)



SFV OG Kush



Sour Power from Hortilab Seeds works perfectly for "sea of green" growing applications.

At the 22nd Annual Cannabis Cup in 2009, Hortilab took home first place for Best *Indica* with Starbud as well as third place in the seed-company *sativa* category with their Sour Power, while water hash made from Starbud won first place in the seed-company concentrates category the following year. More prizes have followed and will undoubtedly continue to roll in.

Team Hortilab says: "Thank you for this honor! Working with only the best and carefully selected breeding stock enables our breeders to produce seeds that stand out in flavor, potency and yield, combining old and new genetics. We're opening our retail seed shop in Valkenburgerstraat 152 (not far from Coffeshop Bluebird and the Green House Waterlooplein), which will be featuring the whole Hortilab lineup and the biggest selection of Grassroots California hats in Europe, as well as a variety of 710 supplies."

**Hortilab Seeds**

[hortilabseeds.com](http://hortilabseeds.com)

Officially founded in 2009, Hortilab Seeds actually have over a decade of breeding experience in the Netherlands and Switzerland. Inspired by their time at the former Spice of Life facilities with Breeder Steve, they decided to search out and catalog the many exotic strains available outside the traditional Amsterdam scene.

fully selected breeding stock enables our breeders to produce seeds that stand out in flavor, potency and yield, combining old and new genetics. We're opening our retail seed shop in Valkenburgerstraat 152 (not far from Coffeshop Bluebird and the Green House Waterlooplein), which will be featuring the whole Hortilab lineup and the biggest selection of Grassroots California hats in Europe, as well as a variety of 710 supplies."

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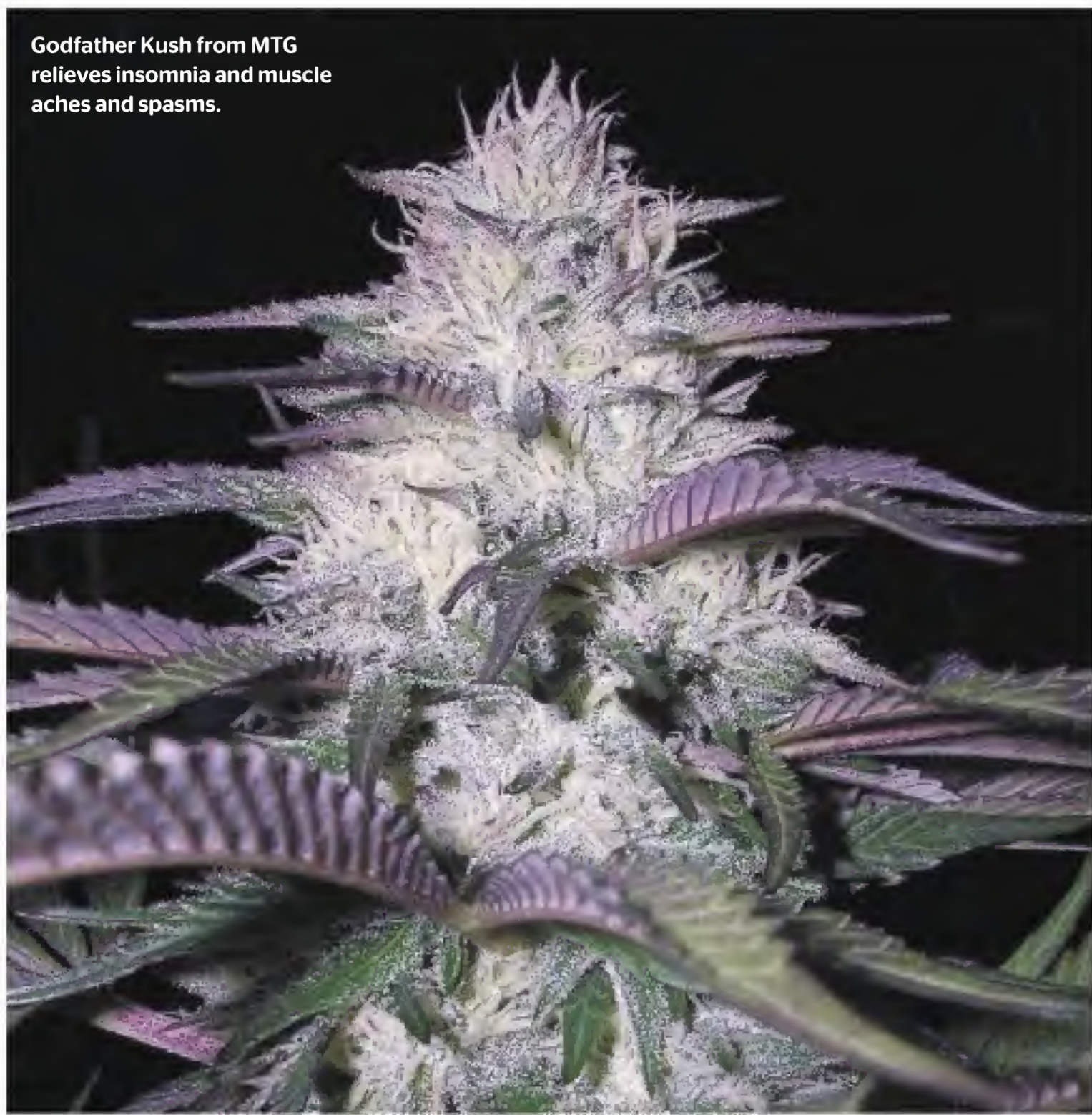
 <http://www.youtube.com/MasterBong08>

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Godfather Kush from MTG relieves insomnia and muscle aches and spasms.

## MTG Seeds

[mtgseeds.com](http://mtgseeds.com)

MTG Seeds hail from the hills of Northern Cali and are dedicated to preserving the strains of their region. They've also traveled extensively looking for rare landrace and exotic genetics to combine with their tried-and-true breeding stock for some very interesting hybrids. They specifically breed for strong mold resistance and high-yielding varieties that can withstand tough conditions, and they use organic methods for growing and creating their seeds.

MTG Seeds have also won awards for the highest CBD level in concentrates and edibles at several of our Medical Cannabis Cups using their famous CBDiesel. The research being done on high-CBD strains these days has shown that they have tremendous medicinal value and important healing properties.

Breeder Django says, "I'd like to thank *High Times* for nominating us to the Seed Bank Hall of Fame. It is a huge honor for us to be included. I'd like to personally thank my dad, who taught me so much and made this plant such a huge part of my life. I would also like to thank Kevin—without your work and effort, we wouldn't be where we are today." 🌿



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Cultivation expert Read Spear details the construction of an inexpensive two-bucket deep water culture (DWC) system that's simple, cheap, elegant, low-maintenance and highly effective for achieving explosive plant growth.

# How to Build a Two-Bucket DWC System

## Equipment List

- 2 x 5-gallon black bucket
- 1 x bucket lid
- 2 x 1-1/2" Uniseal pipe-to-tank seal
- 1 x 18" piece of black PVC pipe
- 1 x 1-3/8" hole saw (multi-toothed, not the wood saw variety)
- 1 x 6" bucket-lid-style mesh pot
- 1 x heavy-duty airstone
- 1 x two- or four-hose air pump
- Standard blue air tubing
- 1 4" x 4" rockwool cube, drilled (I prefer Cultilene cubes because they do not require pHing before use. You are only dealing with one or maybe two plants, so it's best to buy clones that have been started in rockwool.)
- 1 x ppm pen (cheap, with temperature compensation)
- 1 x pH pen (cheap, with temperature compensation)
- Nutrients

Procure the items in the above list and do not substitute. You need Uniseals. You need a multi-toothed hole saw, not one that will tear and rip at your bucket. You need black buckets, not orange or white. You need a lid, and you need black PVC pipe. You will also need a hacksaw to cut the PVC pipe into an 18" piece, as well as a power drill, a wood file (bastard), and some soap and water. You're also going to need some muscle. Sorry, there's no way around that, but I promise it's worth the effort. Got your stuff?



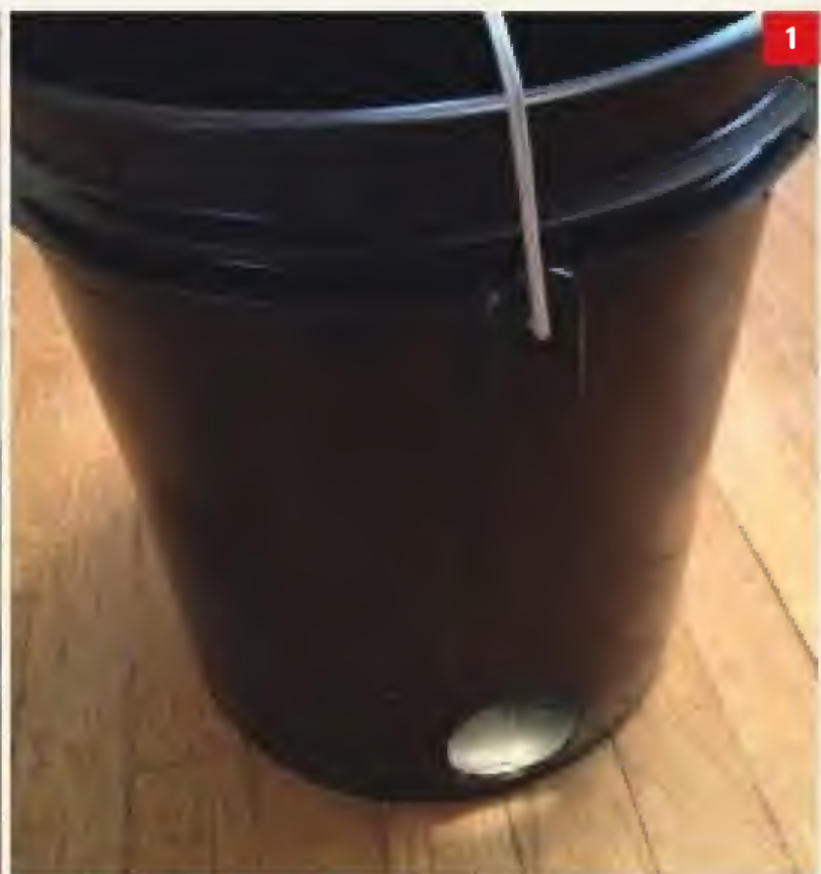
This custom built two-bucket grow system produces huge plants quickly.

## TWO BUCKETS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

A Deep Water Culture (DWC) hydroponic system grows plants in mesh pots, without a medium, and roots are fed from below by a nutrient-rich oxygenated solution. Most DWC systems use only one bucket, this one has been designed so that there is an extra bucket to ease the feeding process. There are several advantages to this. First, your plant is going to get big and heavy, and it is going to be pushing against your ScrOG ("screen of green")-style screen, creating yet more downward pressure. You don't want to have to lift the net pot off to the side every time you need to add nutrients or water. Also, the root-ball is going to fill

the bucket and displace most of the water inside it. With the two-bucket system, you just lift the lid off the non-plant bucket and make your additions and adjustments there.

This additional reservoir will also ensure that you can leave for a few days without harming the plant. I have found that it's possible to leave it for up to seven days in full bloom and expect a healthy, happy plant when you return. (If you do this, remember that the ppm is going to increase over that time, as the plant takes up water faster than food, so you should start with around 800 ppm if you want to come back to 1,200 ppm—otherwise, you could end up with some leaf burn.)



**ROOTING AND FEEDING**

First, assemble your two-bucket DWC hydro system according to the step-by-step instructions above. Then, you are going to want to take a clone that has been rooted in a 4" x 4" rockwool cube and insert it into the system. Simply remove the plastic wrap from around your cube, drop your plant into the net pot and fill in the gaps with loose rockwool. The objective here is not to pack the roots in, but just to close the gap around the top with enough rockwool to block light that would otherwise fall on the roots. Roots exposed to light will develop chloroplasts, which are a waste of plant energy as well as a waste of good root area. Next, fill your DWC bucket system up with nutrients through the top of the second, lidded bucket until the nutrient line in the first bucket sits just below the net pot. You don't want the net pot in the nutrient; you want it just above.

Put a mark on the lidded bucket at this level to make future refilling easier. Thread the blue hose through the net pot and out the top so you can get a good seal between the net pot and the bucket. Put your airstone on the end of the blue tubing. The airstone should rest on the bottom of the bucket. Attach the other end of the blue tubing to your air pump. When you turn the pump on the air should bubble out of the airstone.

Now, when you send air through the airstone and the tiny bubbles pop at the surface, little droplets of nutrient will land on the root-ball. In a few days, the roots will begin to grow down into the nutrient. Soon the root-ball will become impressively voluminous.

Because the two buckets are connected by a small pipe, you will need to be careful with ppm measurements when adding nutrient. The buckets will balance, but it takes several hours for the concentration gradient to equalize. (I let it equalize overnight before taking my final reading.) You are always averaging what you add with what is already there, and there are two variables to consider: concentration and volume. I add 1,000 to 1,100 ppm once the two-bucket system is up and running (having increased concentration incrementally over a period of three to four days), and then I keep an eye on the ppm changes. Recall that the plant will use water faster than nutrient, so there will be times when you want to only add water. I find that I never have to exceed 1,200 ppm.

1. This is how the hole should be positioned in the bucket.

2. Measure up from the bottom of the bucket 2.25", positioning the guide bit on your hole saw in line with the axis of the bucket handle. Now drill your hole. Try to maintain control of your drill—you want the hole saw to cut, not tear.

3. Clean the plastic flashing from around the hole.

4. Pop in your Uniseal.

5. A view of the Uniseal from the inside; note how the plastic debris has been cleaned away.

6. This sloppy job will probably leak.

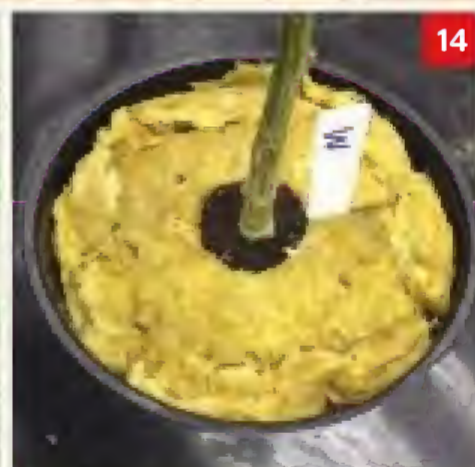




Once your plant is in place, and the bubbles are spraying your roots, it's your choice as to where you want to grow it or what kind of lights you will use. This is a very malleable system that can be grown in a closet or some other manufactured space. I prefer to use a small grow tent and a 450 w High Pressure Sodium, but metal halides, LEDs or compact fluorescents will do. I think you will be impressed with both the ease of operation of this system and the heavy yields it produces. ✨

*Adapted from "Small Spaces, Big Yields" by Read Spear, available for download at Amazon.com.*

*Read Spear began cultivation in the late 1980s. His dispensary was the second to be issued its Medical Marijuana Center license in the state of Colorado.*



7. Cut a piece of black PVC pipe to 18". You will now have sharp edges on the PVC.

8. Very important: Sand or file those edges round or they will bite into the Uniseal and you will never get the PVC pipe through it.

9. Put some dish soap and water on the PVC and inside the Uniseal to make insertion easier.

10. Insert the PVC into your second bucket so that the finished product looks like this.

11. Two buckets properly conjoined.

12. Insert blue tubing through the net pot like this. Plug one end of the tubing into your air pump, and the other into the airstone at the bottom of the bucket.

13. A clone ready to transplant into the DWC system.

14. Close up the gaps around the rock-wool cube.

15. Roots beginning to grow into the nutrient broth.

16. The root-ball will fill most of the volume of the first bucket.





# Buddha s e e d s

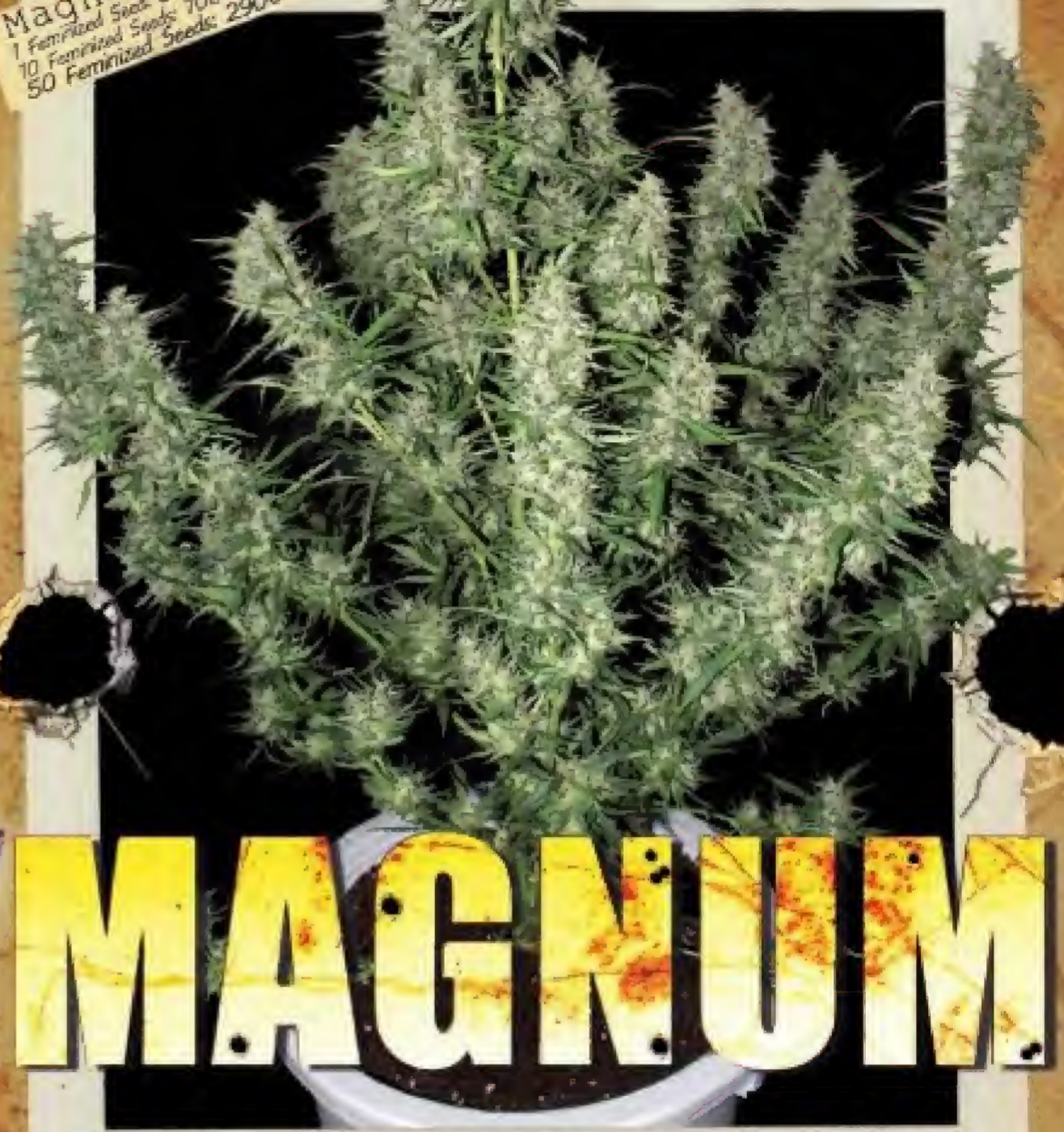


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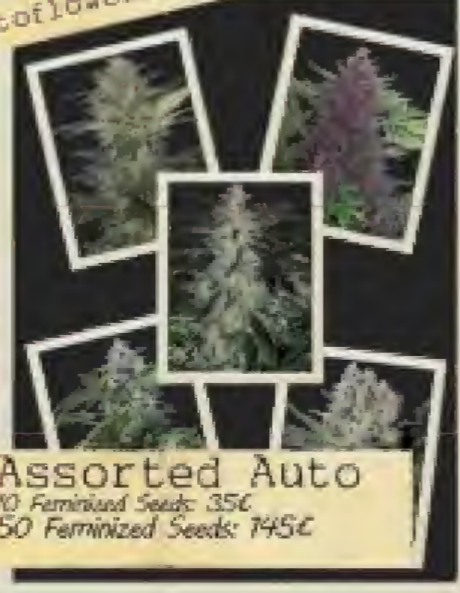
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ACQUISITION OF LIVE CANNABIS SEEDS IS ILLEGAL IN THE UNITED STATES - PAYABLE IN US DOLLARS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

One of the hottest strains on the market is not what you think it is. Meet the originators of Girl Scout Cookies and learn why. *By Chris Simunek. Photos by Freebie*

Girl Scout Cookies likes to grow out bushy. While not a high yielder, it packs a soaring high.

# Meet the Co

The finished product.



# okie Family

**F**or the past few years, people in the cannabis world have been talking a lot about the strain known as Girl Scout Cookies. Cookie crosses have won or placed in several Cannabis Cups. Chances are your local pot merchant, whether he or she is working in a medical dispensary or for a delivery service, has something on the menu called Girl Scout Cookies. But the truth is that the genuine Girl Scout Cookies is quite


hard to find. The breeders who created this famous strain—an outfit who call themselves the Cookie Family—do not advertise, and they do not enter Cannabis Cups. Their activities are strictly on a need-to-know basis. So when they contacted us here at *High Times* with an offer to show us one of their rooms and tell us the true story of the GSC, we jumped at the opportunity.

Fast-forward to Market Street in San Francisco sometime last summer. I'm

standing outside one of the skuzziest Burger Kings on earth, surrounded by the usual San Francisco street creatures, not really sure who I'm waiting here to meet. I had a phone number for a guy named Jigga, who told me the Cookie Family were going to swing by and pick me up. An SUV soon pulled over, with tinted windows and a bunch of perfect strangers inside.

"Are you Chris?"

"Are you Jigga?"



Girl Scout Cookies shortly after being switched from the vegetative to the flowering stage.

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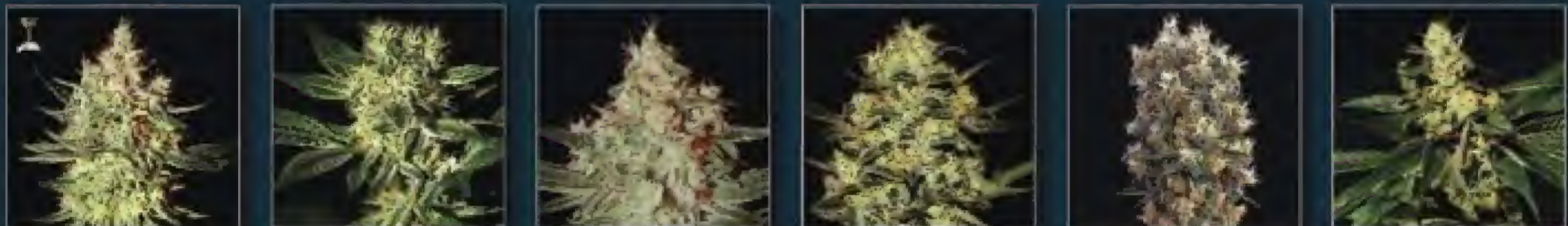
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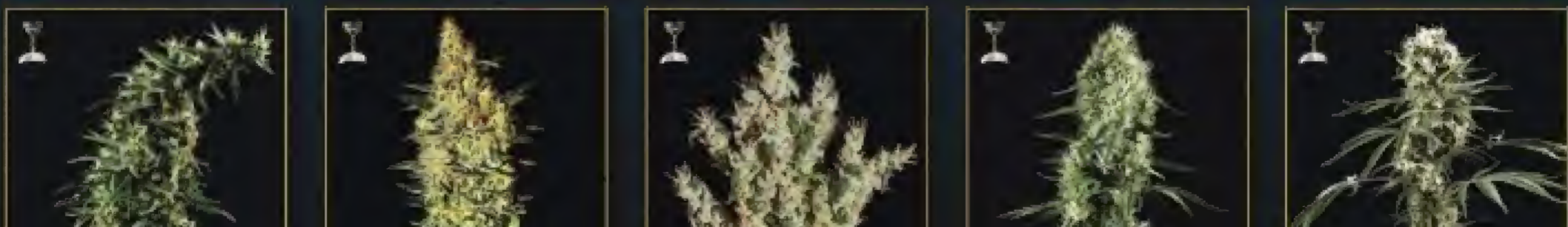
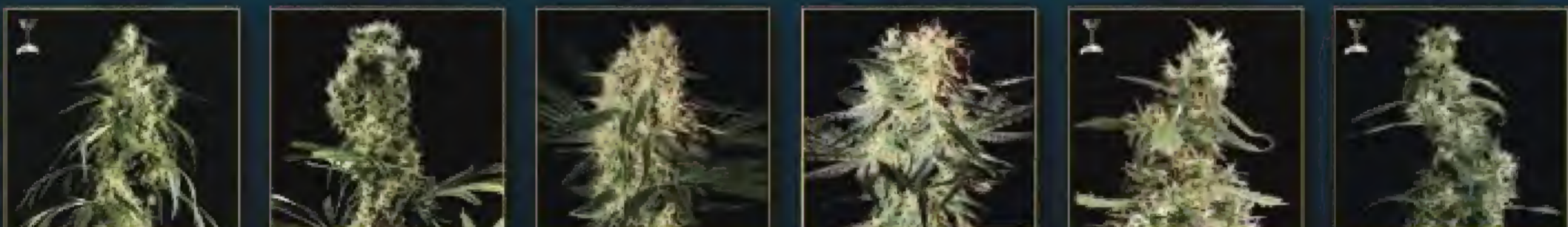
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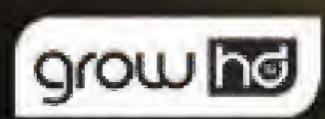
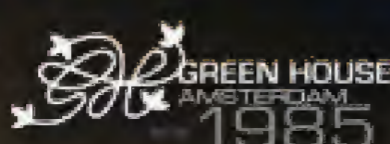


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What was that old line your parents used to tell you when you were a kid? Beware of strangers in cars offering you sweets? But with the promise of sampling some genuine Cookies, I disregarded the warnings of my youth and climbed into the vehicle.

I needn't have worried, though, because the Cookie Family, represented on that day by Jigga, Flux and Mr. Sherbinski, were a down-to-earth bunch of guys, excited to finally get their story out and claim their rightful title as the originators of this often-bootlegged strain. We were headed out to their production facility, a few hours' drive from the city. Along the way, I asked them how they all met.

"Me and Flux go back to high school," Jigga said. "We were into graffiti, the arts. Mr. Sherbinski I met through mutual friends. We've been doing breeding projects for about five, six years now."

Like many stoners, the Cookie Family have a sweet tooth, which is why their strains are all named after some sort of dessert—hence such varieties as Sherbert, and, of course, Girl Scout Cookies. Much speculation has been made as to the genetics of the GSC, and while the Family don't want to give away the whole recipe, the basic deal is this. They had a variety that they referred to as the "F1." Now, this was a nickname, not an indication of its hybridization status. They could have called it "Freddie," but they called it the F1. "It's our secret sauce—I won't tell you the real name," said Jigga. "It had this pissy funk and was one of the best strains around aside from the Kush. So the F1 was crossed with Durban Poison and stabilized, and then that strain was crossed with a Kush that itself is something of a legend.

"The Kush we had, the parent, originally was one of those local strains where you couldn't get any cuts," Jigga continued. "But we had access to those genetics—something that was brought to Southern California from Jacksonville, FL, from some Deadhead friend. Our friend brought it to San Francisco around 1994. It was known as 'Kush' until Snoop and B-Real started to name it 'OG Kush'—one of the dankest Kushes of all time." A few hours outside of San Francisco, we arrived at an idyllic country farm complete with cows and goats—the home of the Cookie Family's production facility. The grow consisted of two rooms in different stages. The first growroom was in the fourth week of vegetation and was filled mostly with GSC and a few Kushes. They grow in 3' x 6' Geopots, which are basically fabric



beds that allow the roots to mingle, filled with a soilless coco blend, Botanicare Moisture Mix, augmented with organic fertilizers, their own brew of nutrient tea and various microbials. The plants grow big and are encouraged to bush out. The Cookie Family fit nine plants under each 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light, with 18 plants in each Geopot. This far inland, their biggest issue is the heat, so the Family built a fully enclosed air-conditioning system and have eight filtered intake fans.

I asked Jigga if the GSC required anything special when grown. He likes to think of her as "a model," he replied: "She grows tall and slender and requires a little more attention. What's unique is that she has a higher threshold for nutrients, is able to handle a higher dosage of ppms, depending on what you're using. We found out by trial and error, looking at the tips of the plants, learning where she will burn and when you have to back it off. The odor is really strong, so sometimes the charcoal filter won't really work—you can have a funk that's so loud, it will go through a brand-new filter, so you have to double the filter or be prepared for that. It's a challenge in a smaller environment.

"Also, a slow, natural cure is very important. We like to hack the plant whole and just remove a few of the fan leaves. We prefer the old-school tobacco cure, slow and easy, a two-week dry. I should mention too that Cookies is not a high-yielding strain. Bottom line, if you're looking to pull weight, this isn't the one for you."

The next growroom was basically a mirror of the first, but farther along.

"These girls are five weeks from harvest, perfect for pollination—right when these pistils start to show their hairs," Jigga explained. "This is where we introduce some compost teas and microbials to keep it at optimum health. And we like to brew our own. We try for the most organic approach for the patients and users who finally get to use this as medicine."

Since breeding is the Cookie Family's specialty, they had a treat in store for me: They wanted me to pollinate a plant and name the genetics after me. I insisted that a strain named "the Simunek" would be a commercial disaster for them,

**Pollination In Three Steps (top to bottom): Place a polyurethane bag over a select bud; cut a small hole in the bag, pour in the male pollen and shake; tape the hole closed.**

**Girl Scout Cookies**



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Amount Per Container 377

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Sodium 20% 20%

Total Carbohydrate 0g 0%

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The Cookie Family grows in beds, allowing roots to mingle.



This Sherbert bud is looking sweet.

so they started toying with one of their trademark dessert names, something that might reflect my East Coast roots. After some thought, we settled on the name “Gelato.” For pollination, they fit a fibrous polyurethane bag over a single bud on a chosen plant, then make a slit in the top, pour in the male pollen and seal it back up. This way, if they so desire, they can cross a single plant with several different males.

I asked them about the varieties out there that are being sold under the Girl Scout Cookies moniker—some of which have even won Cannabis Cups. Since the Family haven’t given away their genetics, how do they account for it?

“We call these Fortune Cookies,” Mr. Sherbinsky said.

“Hunh?”

“I’ll tell you what a Fortune Cookie is,” Flux put in. “It’s when people buy

a bag of Girl Scout Cookies, open up a bud, and there’s a seed inside it. It’s an inside joke.”

The Cookie Family also have several new projects on the horizon. They are currently building a huge genetic library, though they’re not looking to put it on the market anytime soon. What you will see in the near future is something they refer to as “Pollen Nation,” which will be a program to market the male pollen of the GSC. Rather than selling seeds, they want the Cookies to be a more intimate experience for growers. Jigga explained that, by making the pollen available, they allow cultivators to “find and unlock the different healing potentials that this plant has to offer on a personal level, whether it be its proven medicinal purposes or something that just helps your creativity.”

And then there’s the breeding project they have going with DNA Genetics,

winners of numerous Cannabis Cups and one of the most successful seed banks around today. The Cookie Family and DNA are working to cross a couple of classic DNA strains with the GSC and bring them to the market. Tangerine Cookies? Kosher Cookies? When these two super-breeders finish their work, people will finally be able to purchase some Family-endorsed GSC hybrids.

“We only work with select people,” Mr. Sherbinsky explained. “We could be out there pushing it, but that’s not what we do. When we say ‘the Cookie Family,’ we have a large network of friends, and we work collectively to make this happen. We’re educating ourselves how to grow the best plants using organics, which is basically earth and nature. We are spiritual people, and we have a moral code we live by—and this plant is a huge part of what we believe in and what we stand for.” 🌿

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# Canada's New Cannabis Era

Canada has just overhauled its medical marijuana program. Now it's time for the "vision thing": Who can produce the best medicine for patients in the commercial marketplace? Try Peace Naturals on for size!

*Story & Photos by Dan Skye*

Darryl Hudson and Ken Langford tend the Peace Naturals garden comprised of Jocelyn, a unique, high-THC strain, and Chrome, a specially selected Chemdog variety, both developed in-house.



**W**ell, this is a first: I take off my shoes and replace them with sterilized sandals. I don a lab coat, put a hairnet on—and then a hardhat over that. I chuckle to myself, just loud enough for others to hear: “Wow, I guess medical marijuana really *is* dangerous.”

Darryl Hudson laughs. He’s the chief research officer and quality assurance manager for the Peace Naturals Project, one of Canada’s first government-licensed medical marijuana producers. “Well, it’s medicine,” he replies. “We want it to be

as contaminant-free as possible.”

But hardhats?

“We wouldn’t want a light falling on your head,” Darryl explains. I’ve been in hundreds of growrooms in my life, but this possibility never occurred to me before.

Welcome to Canada’s medical marijuana program, Version 2.0, in which licensed-producers are required to meet the strict security and regulatory standards set by Health Canada. Hence the hardhats—they’re not required, but they reflect Peace Naturals’ desire to be *hyper-compliant*.



Back in 2001, Health Canada, the nation's federal health-care agency, was put in charge of the country's new medical marijuana program—and it failed mightily. The quality of the cannabis that the government produced was poor; 13 percent of users purchased their medicine from Health Canada, which ended up covering only 25 percent of the government's costs. Compassion clubs attempting to serve as additional providers—albeit with no legislation to protect them—operated in a “gray area” and were subject to police raids. Meanwhile, Health Canada's bumbling bureaucracy caused a backlog of license applications from patients and growers to mount.

As pot dealers, the Canadian govern-



Raphael, a potent Pink phenotype, is named after Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, who identified THC.



Ken displays Marcela, a Shishkaberry/White Widow x Hindu Kush.

**Everyone wants assurance that whatever they ingest has been produced safely and processed in a clean, healthy environment.**



Peace Naturals relies on hydroponics.

ment's performance was laughable. (But also somewhat sobering in light of the United States' current mishandling of its own national health-care system. Should we expect a similar legacy of ineptitude in the implementation of Obamacare?) Thankfully, Health Canada got out of the business and has been orchestrating a transition. As of March 31, according to the new “Marihuana for Medical Purposes” protocol, patients will be directed to acquire their medicine from 51 licensed Health Canada producers.

The old system enabled patients to grow their own or buy from licensed, small-scale home growers as well as the government. But government officials stated that the system—which they themselves created—was “open to abuse.” They have now characterized home grow ops as public-safety and fire hazards. To the dismay of many, individual permits to grow at home will become a thing of the past.

In a press release issued last July, Minister of the Environment Leona Aglukkaq provided the rationale: “While the courts have said that there must be reasonable access to a legal source of marijuana for medical purposes, we believe that this must be done in a controlled fashion in order to protect public safety.”

In the future, we trust that marijuana will cease to be treated as if it's plutonium or toxic waste. That being said, everyone wants assurance that whatever they ingest—food, medicine or medical cannabis—has been produced safely and processed in a clean, healthy environment.

Enter Peace Naturals, situated in the rolling farmland of Ontario's Simcoe County. The company consists of a team of five professionals dedicated to carving out their niche in Canada's new medical cannabis industry—quite literally.

The primary cultivation and research

facility of Peace Naturals is a rustic barn, perched pastorally on a low hillock. However, it's also surrounded by a tall fence with razor wire and outfitted with a high-tech security system, because comprehensive security measures—including video monitoring of gardens—are requirements of the new program.

The barn itself is a miracle of innovation. The “carving-out” process necessitated converting what used to be a home for animals (and all that entails) into a lab-worthy garden site. The barn itself is the outer “shell.” It's not sealed; old barns need to breathe. But inside, a maze of growrooms on different levels has been erected—even in the former hayloft. The walls of the growrooms are made of interlocking refrigeration panels, which are pre-engineered to have a specific strength and rigidity. The airtight panels provide insulation and reflection—plus they're easy to hose down after a harvest.



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But the question remains: Why a barn? In an age of prefab farm buildings, why would anyone undertake the construction of a high-tech grow facility in an old barn, an endeavor virtually equal to Hercules cleaning out the Augean stables?

As it happens, the co-founders of Peace Naturals were basically ahead of the curve. The barn's makeover was completed in 2011. Back then, it wasn't legally advisable to set up a warehouse garden. But transforming a barn into a discreet, controlled grow facility—with the plants designated for legal patients—was a reasonable risk. The fact is, by the time the Canadian government announced its decision to overhaul its medical marijuana program, the Peace Naturals paradigm was pretty much established.

Ken Langford, one of Canada's first licensed growers, has been a medical marijuana provider for more than a decade. He holds the dual title of co-founder and chief innovation officer. Mark Gobuty, Peace Naturals' other co-founder and its CEO, says Ken always knew that Health Canada would eventually have to cede control of the country's legal cannabis production to genuine professionals. "When I met him," Mark recalls, "he'd say stuff like this, and I'd look at him like,



A rustic barn serves as garden headquarters; Jeff Jacobson checks the security system.

"You're just high, right?"

But Ken has always had a unique perspective. "I totally get that some of the social perspective on this new program is that Big Pharma has jumped in—the big, bad corporations are taking over, and

Darth Vader is here," he says. "But what about the young Jedi out there fighting the good fight? Why not be the one to step up, focusing on the patient and providing stable medicine?"

And Ken is very serious about that "providing stable medicine" part: "The worst thing for my patients was having them say to me, 'Why did you change the strain? I liked that strain!' But I hadn't changed the strain—I'd changed the food. I'd changed the way I *fed* the medicine, and that changed its profile and changed the experience of the medicine. I found techniques that were best for keeping the overall health of the plant and the overall production of the plant consistent. My goal was to maintain standards—meaning no mold, no pests, no contaminants. I just don't understand doing it any other way, because I do enjoy the medicine myself and I'm passionate about what it can do for people. I don't understand dropping it on the floor and saying, 'Oh, we'll just dust that off. Here you go.'"

From the moment he met Mark, a successful entrepreneur in the "functional foods" industry (i.e., those related to health promotion or disease prevention), Ken continued to beat the drum, envisioning a future partnership.

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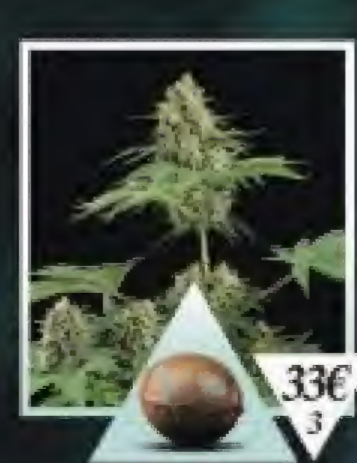
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After his mother contracted a blood disease, Mark was appalled at the volume of prescription drugs he found in her medicine cabinet. The impetus for converting the barn into a medical garden was at hand. He and Ken went to work, complying with the old regulations and allowing total transparency for local law enforcement. When Health Canada announced a licensing program for medical growers, the Peace Naturals Project was well underway.

Ken is the resident grow guru, and he and Darryl Hudson manage the garden operations. Darryl holds a PhD in molecular biology and genetics and is consumed with the plant's medicinal possibilities.

"We need to really understand what the ratios of THC to CBD are doing," he says. "There are some illnesses where THC is what works, but not CBD. So CBD is not going to be good for everyone—but THC isn't going to be good for everyone, either. A 1-to-1 ratio may be good for some people, but we're talking about standardizing: Can we have a 14-to-2? Can we have a 21-to-1? Can we standardize different ratios in either direction and create a medicine that we know will work for appetite or for mood every time, based on the terpene profiles as well as the cannabinoid ratios?"



Jacobson, Langford, Gobuty and Hudson; Peace Naturals is dedicated to responsible agriculture.

The company relies principally upon hydroponics, and it's focused on the transition to a commercial production system according to Henry Ford's philosophy: Grow your business by offering better quality—and get the product right before

you begin manufacturing.

"We closely manage our inventory from clones to cutting to getting them into veg," Darryl says. "We've set up different zones in our veg room that the plants flow through, getting different food and different treatments as they go. Two of the flowering rooms are set up to do one individual strain. They're basically on large reservoir feeds so that we can feed the same nutrients to the entire room. In other rooms, we use individual trough systems so that we can experiment with genetics that have different characteristics.

"We experiment constantly with different genetics and different feed systems. I know that you can actually fluctuate how the genes are expressed and how the plant handles different nutrient balances. We watch what nutrients add stress or take stress away. Some stresses actually increase the production of defense-type molecules like THC. My role here is to figure all this stuff out. We look at how to potentially change gene expression in the plant and get more or less nitrogen or more or less phosphorous. We actually give them nutrient solutions to alter their gene expression, then check the combination of nutrients and genetics. We see very interesting results, for sure!"

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The grow team is also focused on producing zero-THC strains, since CBD delivers many of the medicinal properties that patients seek. Those unfamiliar with the marijuana “high” want to be able to function clear-headed, but still take advantage of the plant’s painkilling properties.

Maximizing production isn’t the goal of Peace Naturals; rather, it’s standardization of the crop. Instead of jamming plants into a room—which prevents thorough manipulation or inspection for pests and other problems—the plants are spaced apart to permit full access. As a result, they bend in different directions. Rather than one giant cola and many immature buds further down—which may have drastic differences in their cannabinoid and terpene content based on how finished the product essentially is—the plants get maximum exposure so that all of the buds across the stem finish more evenly, which results in a very consistent profile.

As Darryl explains: “We want to make correlations between the profile of the finished product and how it’s making people feel—which leads us back to our breeding program that allows us to select the genetics that give us those profiles.”

Naturally, the most critical component of the Peace Naturals operation is



**Darryl, a PhD in molecular biology and genetics, is consumed with the plant’s possibilities.**

its outreach to the public. Jeff Jacobson, vice president for corporate operations, handles everything outside of the production area, including the development of marketing and public-relations strategies. He’s also working alongside Jennifer

Caldwell to develop a call center.

Although the Peace Naturals call center isn’t mandated by the government, “for us, it’s an integral part of our business,” Jeff says. “Providing the best medicine possible is foremost, but being able to provide the right experience for clients is extremely important for us.

“The call center is how we intake new clients. There are plenty of people who’ve been growing medicinally for years—who are masters with plants.” But the challenge that confronts every new business, he adds, “is the face of their company and customer service. There’s a big level of education that goes into what we’re doing—not just for potential clients, but for physicians and health-care practitioners as well. We want people to understand the new program and how it affects access to medicinal cannabis.”

Peace Naturals has gone so far as to hire a PR agency to help it work on a strategy for that. As for the call center, it’s housed in the company’s headquarters, a modern farmhouse adjacent to the barn. Caldwell, a relative newcomer to the medical cannabis industry, oversees the center, a spacious room with twelve cubicles for operators. Who’s on the phone when a patient calls is her first and most basic concern.

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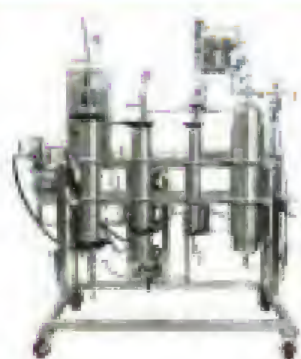
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“We don’t want to be just a number to call and place an order, then we take their money and that’s the end of it,” Jen says. “We want relationships with our clients. We want to understand their lifestyle, their diet, their illness—to be concerned with their well-being in its entirety.”

She expects call-center employees to be on the phone with clients for as long as 20 to 30 minutes. “The people calling us are going to be sick,” she says. “They want to talk to somebody. They want somebody to listen. They want ideas to improve their health.”

There’s no clearer sign that a new era of cannabis has dawned in Canada than the fact that Peace Naturals held two job fairs in the surrounding communities and received an overwhelming response. “I think this is an idea whose time has really come,” Jen says. “People are ready for it and willing to embrace it. They’re excited about a new industry here, a new growth opportunity where they can get in on the ground floor and grow with the company.”

But Peace Naturals’ plans hardly end there. In time, Mark Gobuty expects to employ more than 150 workers. At present, the company’s estimated client base is 1,000 people, with 1,500 more projected to be added with every new



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greenhouse that it builds. Five more greenhouses are currently being planned.

“This is a rural property,” Mark says. “We’re on a farm. We have very low taxes and a free water source—our water table is beautiful here. We have a very

good energy rate. We have a five-phase permaculture project in place that will be developed over the next two years. When we erect a greenhouse, we’ll plant 100 new trees. As we put in new structures—staff quarters and expansions to the office space—we’ll offset that with orchards, wetlands and number of organic gardens. This is agriculture, and we have an environmental commitment to our community.”

Mark is also thinking about the international marketplace. “I see a global play here,” he says. “I’m in the functional, healthy food business, and there are a lot of great Canadian products that I’ve exported as organics and gotten a premium for. I sell them for more around the world than I do domestically. I’m absolutely certain that that’s going to be a factor with cannabis.”

In Canada, he adds, “we’re known for our clean air and fresh water. The next generation that will be consuming cannabis as a medicine—or buying it for their parents who are ill, God forbid!—are going to want the best of the best, the cleanest and the healthiest. And I’m certain that we represent that and will produce it.” ✨

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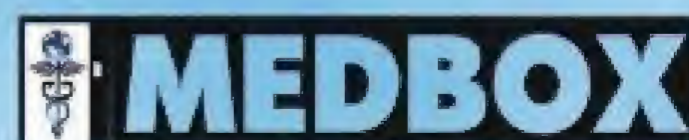
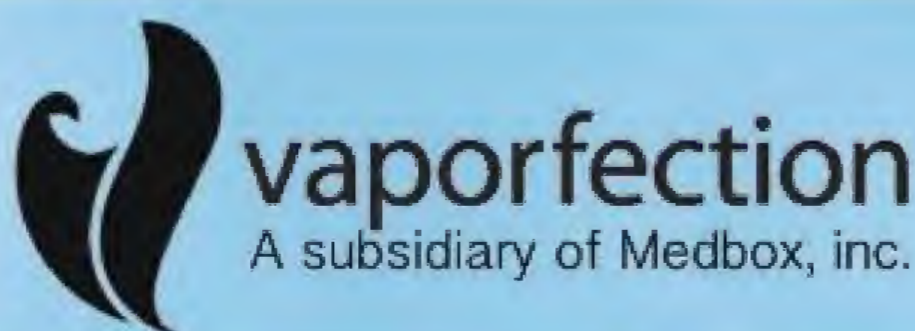
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Mixed martial arts and marijuana have a troubled history. The fighters love it, and the UFC penalizes them for it.

# BUDS

Marijuana and Mixed Martial Arts. *By Zeus Tipado*

**T**akanori Gomi vs. Nick Diaz was the single greatest fight in the history of mixed martial arts, and if anyone on this planet tells you differently, never believe another word they say for the rest of their life. It's as if every punch, slap, illegal kick, knee to the head, submission choke, syllable of trash talk or middle finger ever thrown in the history of MMA culminated on the

night of February 24, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Pride FC 33.

Diaz, MMA's quintessential bad boy, mixed his arsenal of exquisite jabs and peppering hooks with just enough taunting to entice Gomi to abandon his game plan and make their bout an emotional as well as physical slugfest, filled with wildly thrown punches spammed throughout the fight.

At the end of the first round, it was clear that both fighters had taken a considerable amount of damage, as evidenced by the blood pouring down Diaz's brow and Gomi stumbling back to his corner. In the second round, the action was temporarily halted when the gash below Diaz's eye became a river of blood. The doctor briefly inspected the cut and saw that Diaz was medically fit to continue. Within a minute, Diaz

# POIRI

capitalized on a failed takedown by Gomi to catch him in an incredibly rare gogoplata submission after nearly two complete rounds of nonstop action. Despite the spectacular nature of that co-main event, the Pride FC 33 bout will always remain the fight in which Diaz's remarkable win was overturned by a "no contest" decision after he tested positive for marijuana metabolites. He was also suspended for six months and fined 20 percent of his fight purse. Dr. Tony Alamo, then chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, stated that he

believed Diaz's marijuana "intoxication" had numbed his pain during the fight, enabling him to withstand the punishment from Gomi and eventually win.

No, we're not making that up. Alamo actually said it.

All of which begs the question of why marijuana—unlike steroids—has long been one of the most heavily punished drugs in all of mixed martial arts, even as the debate continues to rage over whether it should be counted as a "performance-enhancing drug" (at least in the generally

accepted sense of the term). Indeed, some would argue that marijuana is a performance enhancer for combat sports the same way that playing Grand Theft Auto V for three straight days without a shower is a performance enhancer for attracting the opposite sex. But try telling that to the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

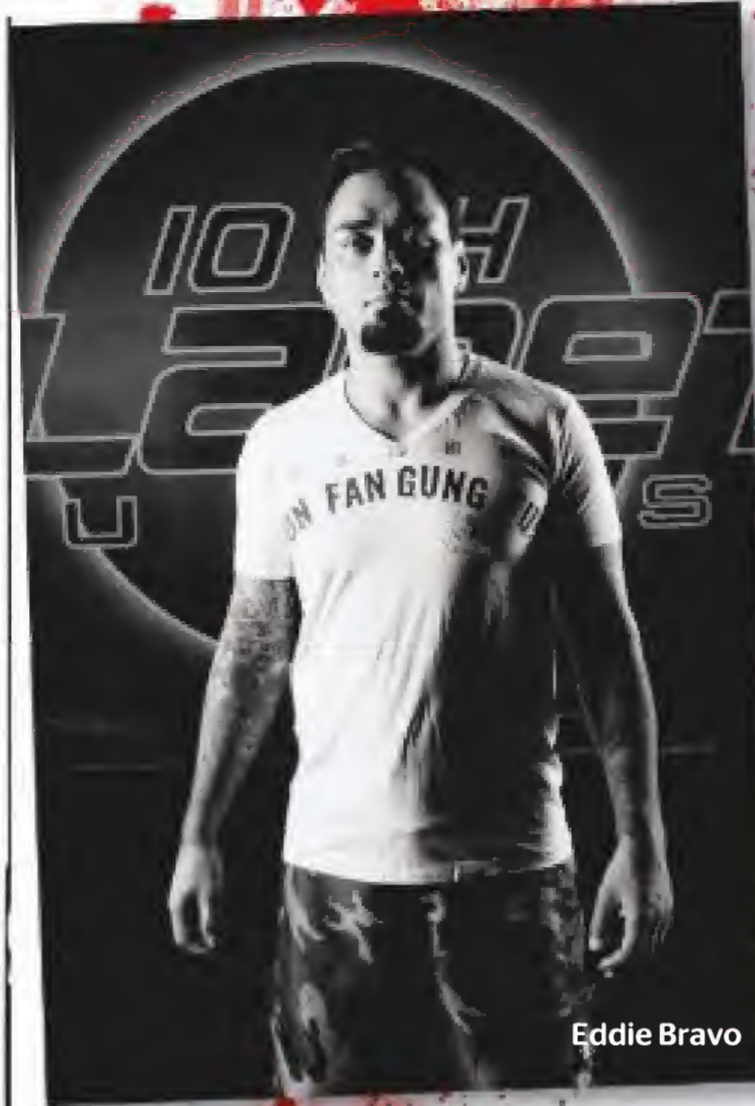
Well, that's what High Times did. Specifically, we spoke with the executive director of the commission, Keith Kizer, who told us why marijuana is included under the list of banned substances.

“First and foremost,” he said, “when you’re dealing with a sport like MMA, it’s not like tennis; it’s not like golf. We’re concerned about people cheating to get an advantage, but we’re also concerned about people getting in the cage and being some sort of detriment to their health—some kind of detriment that could perhaps get them killed.” That list could include “anything from ensuring they have the right skills, to if they’re healthy enough and, of course, if they’re under the influence of any type of medication—legal or otherwise—that can have a detrimental effect on their ability to defend themselves. So marijuana, at the very least, falls under that category. It could put a fighter in a [detrimental situation] as far as slowing the reflexes, as far as being as cognitive of his surroundings as he needs to be ... not unlike alcohol.”

In which case, it would seem that marijuana is more of a performance enhancer. Granted, that’s been society’s general opinion of the substance for decades now: Never in human history has anyone created a label that recommended the use of marijuana while operating heavy machinery. And while many would argue that marijuana use can be psychotropically beneficial, one would be hard-pressed to find any positive correlation between intense physical exertion and getting stoned.

Kizer went on to say that while he doesn’t personally believe that marijuana has any performance-enhancing effect, some athletes tend to differ: “I don’t know of any scientific study that shows that marijuana aids your performance, as far as an enhancing effect, directly. And I’m not surprised by that, given the nature of the drug. On the other hand, I think we all have heard interviews from athletes—some of them very good at what they do—saying, ‘Yes, it helps me in practice. It helps me in competition.’ Dock Ellis threw a no-hitter on LSD, so who are we to tell these athletes they don’t know what they’re talking about?”

Even so, surely the beneficial effects of marijuana (and, in Ellis’s case, acid) that Kizer alluded to are vastly inferior to the physical benefits gained from steroids. And as anyone who’s paid attention to the recent history of MMA will tell you, the fighters who have tested positive for steroid use are far too numerous to name. However, the first prominent fighter who was caught with anabolic steroids seems to have set the precedent for use of that particular performance-enhancing drug.



On November 2, 2001, at UFC 34, heavyweight fighter Josh Barnett was caught with two anabolic steroids and given a gentle slap on the wrist by the NSAC. There was no serious fine or suspension, as in Diaz’s case, only a warning—one that was taken lightly, considering that Barnett later tested positive for boldenone, fluoxymesterone and nandrolone (all anabolic steroids) at UFC 36.

Then again, how can you blame him? There never was a time in human history in which athletes didn’t want to “cheat” with performance enhancers of some type or other. Three thousand years ago, the Kushti fighters of India would cover their bodies with shamanic salves and soak their joints in “magical” potions that (they believed) would give them a mystical advantage over their opponents that couldn’t be achieved through physical training alone. Now, in 2013, performance enhancement is measured in how many steroid cocktails a fighter can inject—and also, apparently, how much bud you can pack in a bowl.

Look at athletes like Eddie Bravo. The creator of 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu, Bravo has gone on record crediting marijuana with assisting him in developing his innovative grappling style. We talked to him about marijuana’s current status in MMA, and his response was simple: “I think marijuana does enhance your performance—but so does protein, vitamin C, vitamin A. The greatest thing about marijuana is that it will enhance your performance by helping you analyze everything about the sport under

**“As far as the physical properties,” Bravo added, “after a heavy day of training, I need some cannabis to help me relax. I go to war for 45 minutes to an hour every night, so after class, it’s very important to calm down and get a good night’s rest.”**

training. Not only is it great for studying film, but it’s great for studying what you want in the sport, where you stand in the sport, and what you can achieve in the sport. It can help you achieve your goals.

“As far as the physical properties,” Bravo added, “after a heavy day of training, I need some cannabis to help me relax. I go to war for 45 minutes to an hour every night, so after class, it’s very important to calm down and get a good night’s rest. Actually, I need it before class too because, when I teach, my [coaching] abilities are greatly enhanced with cannabis. I’m passionate about jiu-jitsu, but I’m even more passionate when I’m under the influence.”

And despite the public perception out there that some MMA athletes are showing up to their fights stoned out of their gourds, most if not all of their marijuana use happens well before a scheduled bout, as a way to facilitate training. But while the psychological effects of use last only three to four hours, marijuana metabolites can remain stored in the body’s fat for weeks, even with the most physically fit MMA fighter. This is what athletic commissions test for, and it is also what has created such an incredible impasse in the sport. With an NSAC testing threshold of 150 ng/mL, marijuana use long before a match can still be detected, leading to a considerable number of fighters being busted.

Pride FC 33 wasn’t the first time that Nick Diaz tested positive for pot. After UFC 143, in Diaz’s highly controversial unanimous-decision loss against Carlos Condit, Keith Kizer said he saw Diaz drink 24 bottles of water in an attempt to dilute his urine and pass his post-fight drug screening. It didn’t work, however, and despite the UFC’s plans to set up an immediate rematch between Diaz and Condit, those efforts were thwarted by the chemical residue of a leafy green substance.

In the history of the UFC, no marijuana test has been more financially

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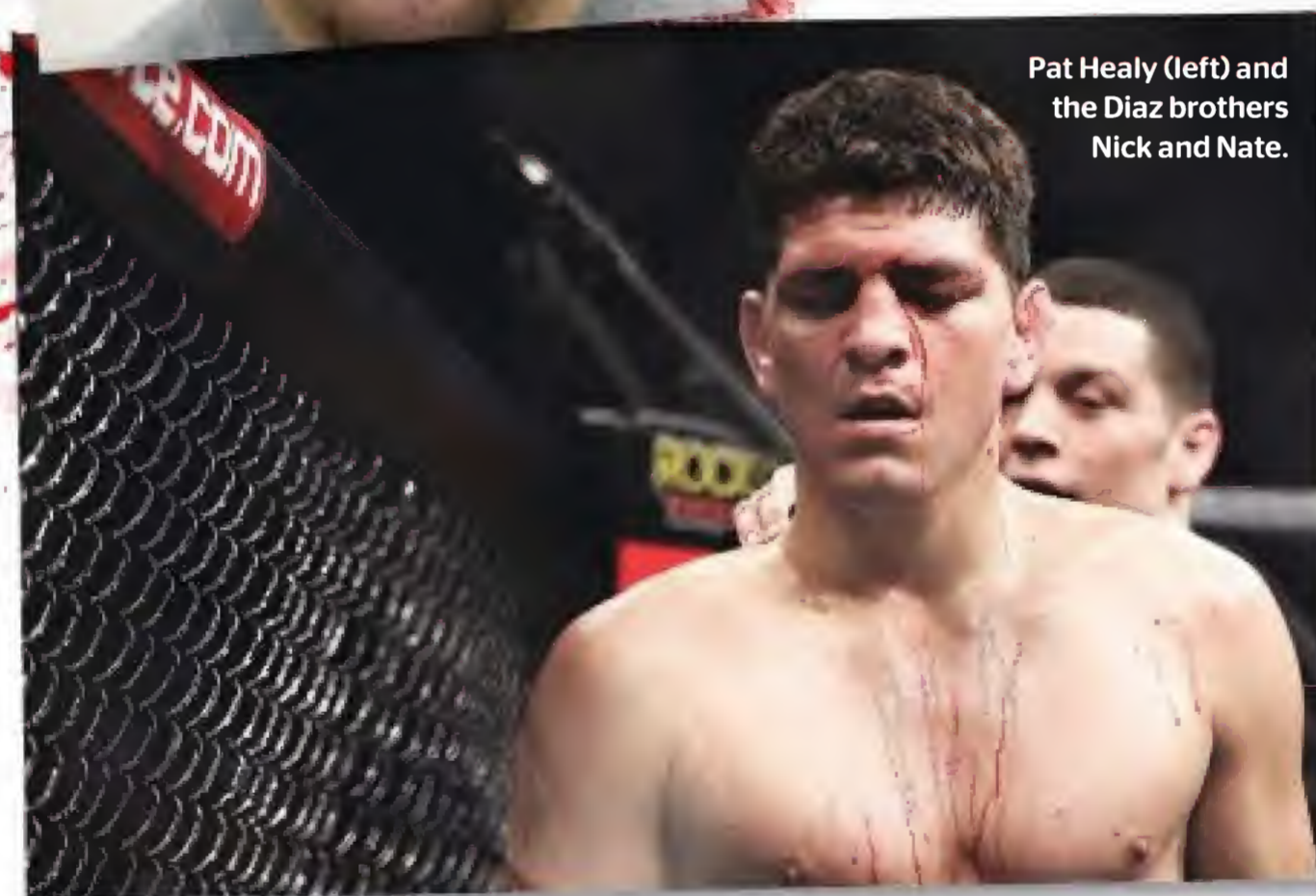
unfortunate than Pat Healy's in April 2013 at UFC 159. After becoming one of the handpicked fighters who made the transition to the UFC after it purchased its greatest competitor, Strikeforce, in 2011, Healy made his UFC debut against a formidable opponent, Jim Miller, in a fight that many predicted Healy would lose. Instead, he put on an astronomically impressive performance, one that earned him two UFC bonuses (for "submission of the night" and "fight of the night") on top of his fight purse, resulting in an extra \$130,000—far more than his \$17,500 base salary and \$5,000 win bonus. But in his post-fight drug screening, Healy tested positive for marijuana metabolites and was forced to forfeit his six-figure bonus in addition to having his first UFC bout overturned by a "no contest" decision. *High Times* spoke with Healy, who said that it was such a tough blow financially that he simply stopped smoking marijuana altogether to prevent another such mishap.

The irony of this entire debacle is that while MMA fighters are being punished harshly for testing positive for marijuana metabolites, they're getting exemptions for elevated levels of testosterone—not unlike those seen with anabolic steroid use—thanks to the official acceptance of testosterone replacement therapy.

TRT is a process that was initially designed to correct endocrine problems in men, specifically the lack of adequate testosterone. These days, the therapy has been applied on a much broader scale, including in men over the age of 30 due to a natural decrease in the hormone that occurs with aging. With a TRT exemption, a certain elevated level of testosterone is approved by athletic commissions, which many believe opens the door for anabolic steroid use.

The most logical question to ask is this: If fighters have found a way to be granted an exemption for elevated levels of testosterone, why hasn't any fighter

applied for a medical marijuana exemption and attempted to shift the paradigm concerning pot in MMA? We asked UFC fighter Chael Sonnen, who offered this insight: "The conditions, circumstances, the public's perceptions of the respective substances in question, and the lack of a fighter as articulate as myself, with my level of integrity, to present the particulars, make it a less-than-perfect comparative situation,



Pat Healy (left) and the Diaz brothers Nick and Nate.

**High Times spoke with Diaz, who told us he believes not only that marijuana should be allowed in the cage, but also that its use should be encouraged in order to prevent brain trauma to fighters in all combat sports.**

Las Vegas. While Diaz has been in his fair share of all-out wars since then, it appears the former welterweight champion has left the fighting life behind (at least for now) and formed his own MMA promotion, appropriately named War MMA.

*High Times* spoke with Diaz, who told

us he believes not only that marijuana should be allowed in the cage, but also that its use should be encouraged in order to prevent brain trauma to fighters in all combat sports. "There was actually some research in Israel that showed marijuana has the ability to not only protect the brain from injuries, but it can reverse the effects of degenerative brain trauma like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's," Diaz says. "I think that should be introduced to the world—especially MMA. It's helpful if I'm being punched and kicked to the head for a living."

While the sport of mixed martial arts has changed immensely since the days of antiquity, it's evident that our cultural stigmas are still heavily restricting MMA from being expressed in its purest form. As long as a

ban on performance-enhancing drugs remains, then there should not exist any

loopholes (like the TRT exemption) to allow some circumvent the rules. And, by contrast, the penalty for testing positive for any amount of marijuana should be congruent to the alleged enhancement (or "de-enhancement") provided by the substance.

which contributes to my pessimism. "All athletes make individual decisions based upon their analysis of the political and regulatory landscape they observe, weighed against their own values and desires," Sonnen added. "Overwhelmingly, from a statistical standpoint, they make the proper choice. But the proper choice doesn't sell newspapers or generate 'hits' or 'views' on a website." All of which seems to indicate that there won't be significant change in the sport until an outspoken (and popular) proponent of marijuana is willing to risk advocating its medical benefits before athletic commissions in an attempt to remove MMA from the Reefer Madness era.

It's been over six years since Nick Diaz's ill-fated bout against Takanori Gomi in

Alternatively, MMA can always decide to undergo an archaic revival of its own, harking back to the days when athletes were self-administering "magic potions" before a fight in order to gain a competitive edge—be it yak fat, marijuana or anabolic steroids. Just throw open the doors for any athlete to enhance their performance as they see fit. It seemed to work just fine thousands of years ago. ✨



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# MATT RIDDLE

## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

**L**IFE IS SIMPLE FOR FAMILY MEN: THEY WORK TO PAY THE BILLS AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES. FOR MATT RIDDLE, 27, THAT MEANS BATTLING IT OUT IN THE “CAGE” AS A TOP-RANKED MIXED MARTIAL ARTS FIGHTER. IN HIS CAREER, HE’S GAINED A REPUTATION AS AN AGGRESSIVE, LIGHTNING-QUICK OPPONENT. BUT HE’S NO FOOL. HE’S FULLY AWARE OF THE SPORT’S DANGERS AND WANTS OUT OF THE BRUTAL PROFESSION BY AGE 30.

RIDDLE HAS HAD HIS BATTLES OUTSIDE THE RING AS WELL. THE ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP SUSPENDED HIM LAST FEBRUARY FOR TESTING POSITIVE FOR POT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE’S A STATE-SANCTIONED MEDICAL MARIJUANA USER IN NEVADA. HE WENT PUBLIC, EXTOLLING THE BENEFITS OF CANNABIS WHILE ALSO POINTING OUT THE UFC’S HYPOCRISY WHEN IT COMES TO “PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS”: POT IS FORBIDDEN; BUT TESTOSTERONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY ISN’T.

WE CAUGHT UP WITH RIDDLE WHILE HE WAS TRAINING FOR HIS NEXT FIGHT IN LATE NOVEMBER. HE NOW FIGHTS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BELLATOR MMA ORGANIZATION. HIS PUNCHES HAVE LOST NONE OF THEIR POWER. NEITHER HAVE HIS OPINIONS.

### Were you an aggressive kid?

The first fight I ever got into, this bigger kid just beat the crap out of me. I didn’t even throw one punch. My family wasn’t into sports—definitely not wrestling. I didn’t play football or anything. But I was athletic and high-strung. I was diagnosed with ADHD, like every other kid.

### Did they medicate you?

In third grade they gave me Ritalin, which is basically speed. It slows you down if you’re a little hyper to begin with. It made me a zombie. It made me sit there and focus. I ended up getting better grades, but at what cost?

I stopped taking it in my sophomore year. The medication was eating away my stomach; I was getting ulcers on my esophagus. I was smoking weed at that point, and my parents knew—they saw

that I was calm and collected. They told me: “Matt, you can smoke weed, and you don’t have to take Ritalin anymore. You can do your own thing.”

### What led you into wrestling?

I wasn’t aggressive, but I was still wild. One night my dad turned on the WWF, and Hulk Hogan was wrestling. I fell in love with it right away.

I started wrestling, and my first year I go 8-1. I pinned mostly everybody. I got serious about it and started going to clubs. By the time I was a senior, I’d won state and national championships in high school. I placed second in the world championships.

I got a scholarship to East Stroudsburg State and wrestled two years there, but I partied a lot, did everything I shouldn’t have been doing. I had a horrible season and left school.

Then a buddy called me. He was doing jujitsu. We’d always talked about fighting. He was training for a tournament in two weeks and asked if I wanted to train with him. So I moved to New York and started training full-time for the tournament.

### With just two weeks of jujitsu training, you were ready?

I was in shape. I was still wrestling. So I hopped into that tournament and beat everybody on points and submitted the guy in the finals. It was a good day ... and I kept going. I won the North American grappling championship, took second at the world championship of jujitsu, and won three more national championships in grappling.

Then I *wanted* to fight. My first fight, I took this guy down in the first round—just schooled him. I had a choice:

I could either keep doing the grappling tour or I could try out for the UFC. I was 21 and on a roll. The worst they could say was no.

### How did you apply?

There’s a bunch of paperwork. You make a video, put your highlights on it. Then you show up live. They take you in a room, 50 at a time, and you grapple for like two minutes. The winner goes to the next round—or they both suck and nobody goes through.

The next round is striking: You hit pads. They’re looking for speed, accuracy and how hard you hit. If you make it past that round, there’s the interview round, which gets you in the house. A lot of people have got the physical part but can’t talk. They want people they can market. I did the interview process, and a couple weeks later they called and said: “Hey, Matt, you wanna be a TV star?”

I was like: “Of course, I do!”

### What does being a UFC fighter entail?

They basically own you—you sign yourself away. When you’re on the TV show, you get paid like a couple hundred bucks a week and don’t get paid for the fights. The UFC is so big, everybody wants to get there. It’s got the biggest money and the most publicity.



The top-ranked MMA fighter makes no secret of his affinity for cannabis.

People will fight for free to get there, even though they might get their jaw broken.

I got accepted on the show, and now I'm fighting. In the second round of my first pro fight, about 10 seconds in, I threw a right hook—a devastating right hook. I broke the guy's jaw in three spots. It was the most brutal knockout in history, a lot of people said. It solidified my career in the UFC.

My next fight, I go out swinging against a guy who's 34, a veteran, and I lose. He arm-bars me in the second round. Everybody from that show, except for the guys who were in the semi-finals, got fired—except me. They kept me because of that knockout finish.

#### So tell us about your UFC career.

I started 3-0, winning my first three fights decisively. I'm getting paid good money. My first fight I got paid 8/8 [\$8,000 for the appearance, \$8,000 for the win.]

My first loss came in my fourth fight, in Manchester, England—one of the worst experiences of my life. I was jetlagged. I'd cut a lot of weight and was a little sick—probably just from flying with a bunch of people. It was a horrible experience getting my ass kicked; people in the crowd were calling me names. He just held me down in the third round and punched my face. I'm holding his arms, but I can't stop them. I'm holding his biceps, and he's just punching me in the face. He can't hit too hard because I'm pushing on him, but I can't stop him. They ended up stopping the fight.

But it ended on a good note: I'd planned a vacation in Amsterdam. Went to Barneys, had a good time. When I came back, I found out my future wife was pregnant with my twin daughters. I'm like, “*Shit!* I've got to get on the ball!”

So I fight Greg Soto next in New Jersey. I won the first two rounds decisively, and I'm beating him up in the third.



**“I got a call from the Calgary Athletic Commission: ‘Matt, you failed your drug test, and we’re going to have to let the UFC know.’”**

I'm on top, elbowing him in the face, punching him. He goes for a submission and I push back. Now, I'm still on my knees, and he kicks me directly in the face, which is illegal. I was unconscious for a little bit. They stopped the fight, but I won because I won the first couple rounds. But even though I won, I wanted to redeem myself next fight.

#### Had you become a dad yet?

Amy and Alison had just been born. I'm engaged; we're doing the family thing. So, next, I fought a guy who beat the guy that beat me in England—my only loss. I trained hard and I decimated this guy.

I made good money on that fight. I'm making 18/18, so when I win a fight, I take home about \$36,000. I play like three times a year, so I'm doing really well. The biggest perk of the UFC is the bonus system: If you get “fight of the night,” “knockout of the night” or “submission of the night,” you get an additional \$50,000 to \$100,000.

I'm now 5-1 in the UFC. My next match is against Sean Pierson, a good boxer—a kick-boxer—well-rounded and a dangerous dude. Dana White [UFC president] comes in the

locker room and says, “This is the biggest crowd in history: 25,000 people [in the arena] and millions at home.” He says \$100,000 for any of the bonuses. I'm 24. I got the kids, you know? I'm thinking, “I could buy a house! I could change my life! I want that \$100,000!”

If you watch the fight, there's no technique. I throw the whole time—kicks, punches, elbows, takedowns, anything. If he's in striking distance, I'm whipping it at him. He's tagging me and moving away, but I keep chasing him. I want to hurt him.

We're in Canada; he's from Canada, and he ends up winning the fight in a unanimous decision. He's bleeding, I'm swollen up, the crowd's going wild—it's one of the best fights of the year. But that night, the fans voted and Georges St. Pierre—who's the world welterweight champion; he's from Montreal—got “fight of the night” and “best” *everything*. So he got all the money.

Basically, I got all beat up and didn't get the bonus. Later, they gave me a \$20,000 check, because it was a sweet fight. But I wanted that \$100,000.

Next, I fight in New Orleans. We fight and I don't get a

mark on me. But I make a couple of mistakes where he gets takedowns and position, so he ends up winning the decision. But I break his nose, cut both his eyes—hurt him really bad. It gets “fight of the night,” and I get a \$65,000 bonus check, even though I lost. I paid off my back taxes, moved to Vegas and bought a house cheap after the market crashed.

That's when I got a medical marijuana license. I moved to Nevada so I could use medical marijuana.

#### That's when your problems started with the UFC, right?

Yeah—their problems!

I took a fight on a week's notice, which I never do. I'm in good shape, but I'm smoking pot. I worried about failing a drug test. But Lisa, my wife, is pregnant again. I need the money, so I take the fight against Chris Clements in Calgary, Canada.

I had the fight of my life—took him down three times. In the third round, he throws a spinning back fist and as I duck it, I locked up a submission hold while still standing. The crowd goes crazy. I got “submission of the night” and walked away with over \$100,000.

But three months later, I got a call from the Calgary Athletic Commission: “Matt, you failed your drug test, and we're going to have to let the UFC know.”

I told them that I'm a medical marijuana patient in Nevada. We had a hearing and I made my case. They didn't fine me; they didn't suspend me or anything. And they didn't make my fight a “no contest,” which is unheard of.

Then the UFC calls: They're sorry, but that's not happening. My fight was made a “no contest.” I wasn't fined, though, which is funny because every UFC fighter who's been caught usually gets like 20 percent of their purse taken.

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### If you weren't fined or suspended, what went wrong?

I talked about medical marijuana, and the UFC didn't mind. But I talked about testosterone replacement therapy—the fact that I got a “no contest” for smoking weed, while other fighters are allowed to take TRT, which is steroids. It's bullshit. The UFC was like: “You need to shut up about that.”

I gained a reputation, but I was just telling the truth.

### Did you fight for the UFC again?

Yeah, I fought John Maguire. But the UFC made me take a drug test a week before the fight to make sure I pissed clean or they wouldn't let me fight.

I quit smoking three weeks before the fight and I pissed clean. I beat the guy in a unanimous decision. I'm on a win streak. Next, they want me to fight Che Mills, a Top 20 fighter. If I beat him, I'm in that spot. And I know I can beat him.

So I quit 21 days before the drug test. I win decisively, take the drug test and think I'm good. Two weeks later, I get a call: I failed. I'm like, “You're kidding me!”

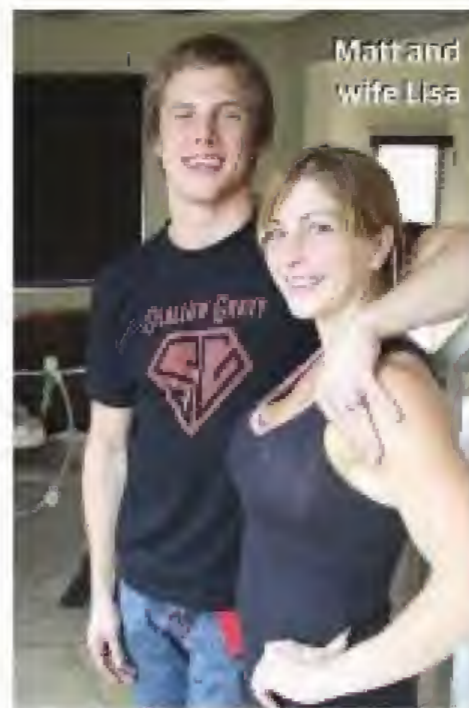
### Were you skeptical of the test results?

I don't want to be that guy who believes in conspiracy theories, but this was a UFC-run drug test, and I was already on their radar.

### This happened last February. Where do you stand now?

I'm not out of the UFC forever. They tell me if I win a couple of fights, pass a couple of drug tests, they'll let me back in. But right now I'm fired.

Honestly, I thank the



**“It's bullshit. The UFC was like: ‘You need to shut up about that.’ I gained a reputation, but I was just telling the truth.”**

UFC for the experience. We stand on different ground. They're about Bud Lite, testosterone, gas-guzzling cars and whatever. I think marijuana should be legal, and I don't think fighters should be taking steroids. I'm highly ranked in the world, and they knew I was building credibility. They found a way to get rid of me. I don't look at it past that.

### Does marijuana help you as a fighter?

I'd never go into the ring high—I wouldn't even want to get high the night *before* a fight. Marijuana just helps me relax. They classify it as a performance-enhancing drug. I wouldn't say that. I'm high-strung. When I don't smoke marijuana, I'm aggressive. I'm not fun to be around. It makes me relax, increases my appetite a little, and it's got no side effects. How can it be categorized as a performance-enhancing drug?

### Playing devil's advocate: If pot aids your ability to rest and recover, doesn't that enhance your performance?

Technically. But don't vitamins do that? What about grain supplements? I don't get in trouble for those. But with pot, I get in trouble and they take my money.

### What makes a good fighter?

At first, I wanted just to take people down and submit them. That was because of jujitsu. Now I wanna hurt them, make 'em quit. I want them breathing hard; I want them to know they can't keep going as hard as I can. I just wanna break them. I don't care if you beat me on points; I want to cut you open. We train to knock people out and choke them unconscious. A lot of us won't tap out. We won't quit until there's nothing left. The money's on the line.

### What are your goals now?

I fight to pay the bills. I've been on the grind for almost 10 years. I've seen what the end of that road is. I've seen what being past 30 or past 35 looks like: It's you getting knocked out. We've all seen somebody who just can't hang it up. I don't want to be that guy.

### You're definite about that?

Oh, yeah. The second I make enough money, I'm done. I'm 27. I'm a free agent, on a win streak, and I'm the top 15th fighter in the world. It gives me a lot of negotiating room outside the UFC. I still have the ability to become number one in the world—regardless of the UFC. And even if the rankings don't say it, if I win my next couple of fights, honestly, I don't care if I'm ranked number one. I just want to make money fighting and get out. I'm not going to let people beat me up. I have pride. ✨

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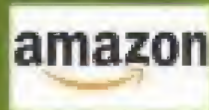
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This close-up of Blue Dream shows maturing glandular trichome heads.

SUBJECT: **Trichome Tips**

FROM: **Annie M.**

🍄 How long is too long to wait before harvesting? My husband is waiting for the trichomes to turn amber. Is this typical of all strains? In the same vein, when I look at photos of trichomes for individual strains (as shown in the Green House Seeds catalog, for example), what exactly am I looking for? How do the strains differ in their visual appeal?

Dear Annie,  
Trichomes are the gland heads (sometimes referred to as “crystals”) that glisten on the buds and look like tiny, clear mushrooms as they develop. They have a thin stalk and bulbous head that gets larger as the plant reaches maturity. First, the clear heads will begin to go cloudy in the middle; then the white clouds eventually turn amber. The best time to harvest is when most of the glands are cloudy. Of course, some will have turned amber and others will still be clear, but if the majority are cloudy, your buds are ripe (though if you’d like a more lethargic high, wait until they’re more amber). However, this isn’t really strain-specific, so it’s not something you’d be looking for in catalog photos—although some strains certainly have more or bigger trichomes than others, and I’ve even seen some rare ones that turn pink instead of amber.

*Danko Tip:* Test your growbox or tent for light leaks by actually getting inside it during the dark cycle and seeing for yourself.



Mother plants and clones in their vegetative stage require 18 hours or more of light per day.

SUBJECT: **Light Leaks Outdoors**

FROM: **#1 Liver**

🌱 First, if I can, I'd like to quickly answer one of my own questions (in hopes of helping others) with something that this outdoor season taught me before I had a chance to ask Danny.

I live in the Pacific Northwest and was growing outside in a greenhouse this year. But since I live in a city, my concern was the streetlight not more than 25 feet from my greenhouse. I was worried the light might hinder the transition to flowering, but then I figured that with the moon and sun rising as they always have, the forces of nature would outweigh this pesky streetlight being on. Well, I was wrong. It

did seem somewhat strain-specific, but overall, none of my plants flowered normally, and some didn't flower at all; the *sativas* seemed to get it the worst. Next year, I'm definitely using light deprivation to prevent this, or maybe I'll just buy a slingshot ....

Second, I wanted to ask your opinion on the transition from the vegetation phase to the flowering phase while growing indoors. Is there a notable difference in harvest time and weight between just throwing the plants from a 20-hour light cycle to a 12-hour one, and transitioning the light cycle more gradually—from 20 hours of light per day to 19, then 18, then 17 and so on—till you reach 12 hours of light? Many growers don't seem to care about a smooth transition, but I think

they may be doing themselves (and their plants) a disservice.

Keep spreading the love!

Dear #1 Liver,

Thanks for your tip! I've seen evidence of nearby streetlights having an effect on outdoor greenhouse light schedules before, but never to the extent that you describe. This is valuable information that people should know, since it can potentially mean ruining a whole crop. Your solution of using a light-deprivation system should work perfectly, although your suggestion about getting a slingshot made me chuckle.

As for the transition from 20 hours of light per day to 12, I believe it's best done quickly and not over a prolonged period of time. In my opinion, when growing indoors, it's best to just make the switch and allow the plants to adjust immediately rather than stretch it out over the course of a week or so. That way, there's no confusion for the plants as to whether it's time to flower or not, and the flowering period can begin in earnest.

SUBJECT: **Frost Bites**

FROM: **Dave S.**

🌱 I live in Canada, and after having listened to all of your podcast episodes, I'm seriously considering growing outdoors. Could you please explain how late-season frost affects plants (i.e., which parts risk getting damaged—roots, stalk, etc.)? I'm more of a fan of *sativa*-dominant plants, and over here, it seems like what's mostly available are *indica*-dominant strains because they finish earlier. I'm wondering how much more difficult *sativas* are to grow outdoors over here. I've kind of had my eye on Sour Diesel, Super Silver Haze and Serious 6 and haven't decided which one I should aim for.

Coming back to frost protection: Would planting grass (lawn) around the base of the plant help? I'm thinking about using that green, mulchy stuff the highway department uses on the sides of the road. It grows fast with just rain to feed it, so I thought maybe the best time would be to apply it around the base of a new plant as I transplant it in the woods.

Dear Dave,

Growing *sativas* outdoors in Canada will



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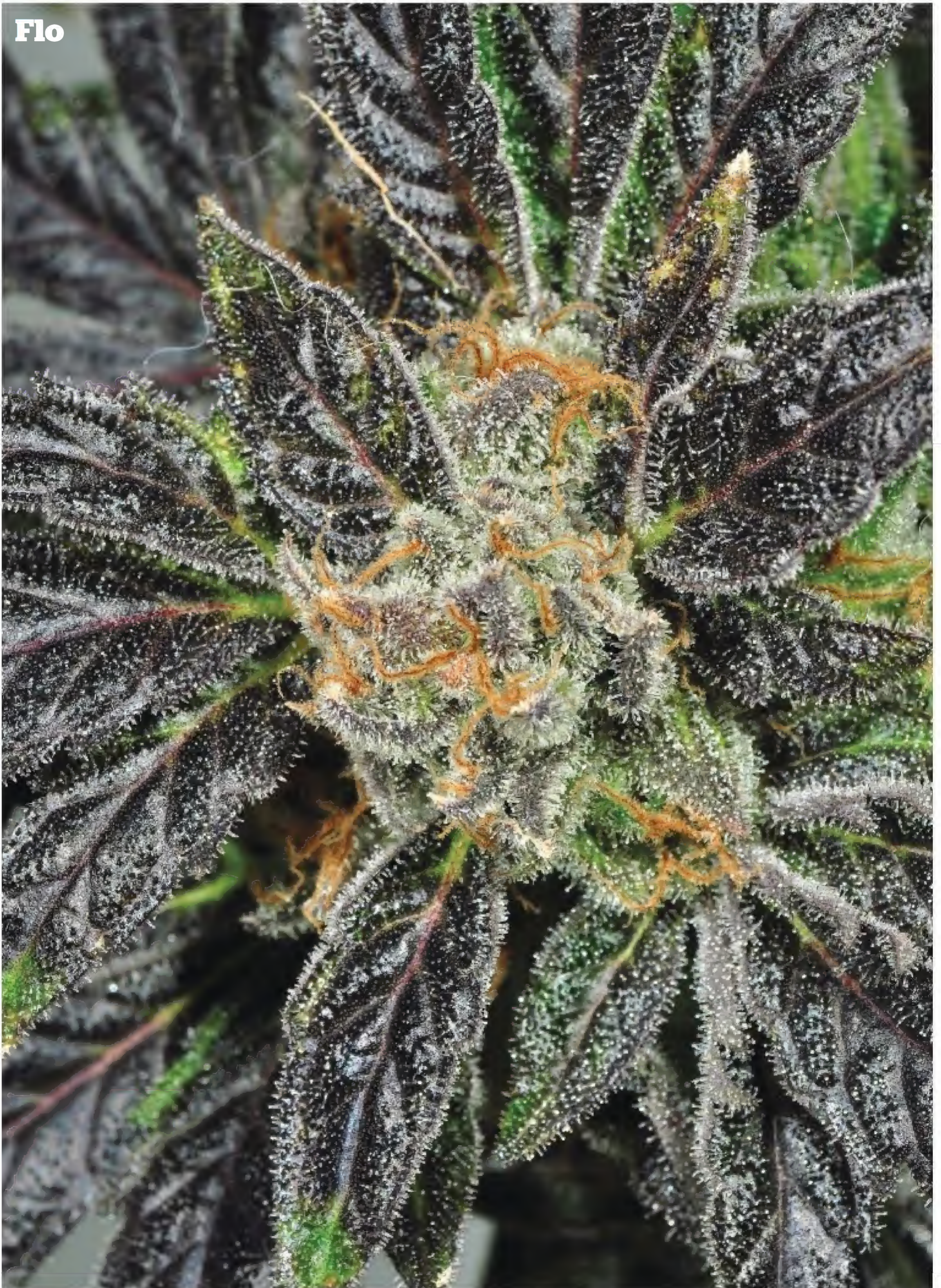
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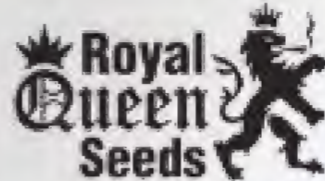
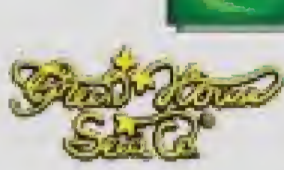
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require some planning and preparation. As you've mentioned, late-season frost will damage plants, but the truth is that it kills them, roots, stalk and all. You can't have your plants outside in frost conditions for very long before they succumb to the cold, though you can use a greenhouse (preferably heated or attached to a heated home) to extend your season.

You can also extend your season in the other direction by using light-deprivation techniques to start your flowering period earlier (i.e., in the summer). This requires covering your plants so that they receive only 12 hours of sunlight daily to trigger early blooming.

I wouldn't recommend using grass or lawn because it will only protect the very bottom of your plant's trunk, leaving the rest exposed to the cold. However, I have seen products such as the Wall-o-Water that can absorb heat during the day and then release it at night to keep plants warm when they're most vulnerable. The bottom line is that the whole plant must be protected from any extended frost in order to survive.

I should also mention that we don't technically consider Sour Diesel a *sativa*-dominant plant here at *High Times*. There are certainly phenotypes out there that can lean that way, but the Sour Diesel we know and love is an *indica*-dominant hybrid.

SUBJECT: **Hydro Reservoir Aeration**

FROM: **Waterbug**

🐛 How important is aeration in a hydroponic reservoir? I've always thought that when it comes to aeration, overkill is okay, so I have several air pumps pushing through airstones placed in several spots in my reservoir. I let the nutrient solution pouring back into my reservoir agitate it as well, and it seems to always be moving and full of bubbles. But my buddy keeps just one cheap aquarium pump going in his rez, and his plants seem fine—and he thinks I'm crazy to run all that electric just to move my water around. What's your take?

Dear Waterbug,  
You're right to aerate and agitate your nutrient solution the way you do: You're far more likely to have a successful grow due to a properly oxygenated solution,

*Danko Tip:* Immediately discard any plants that show signs of hermaphroditism to avoid seeding your crop.



Aeration of a reservoir is essential to hydroponic success.

and the electricity spent on a couple of extra air pumps is minor compared to the benefits of having lots of tiny bubbles of O<sub>2</sub> in your water. In short, the more aeration, the better—this is the theory behind aeroponics, in which plant roots dangle in a nutrient-solution mist. The available oxygen, combined with proper food levels, enable explosive growth in the roots, resulting in stronger and healthier plants. Eventually, your buddy will be dealing with root rot or some sort of fungus that you avoided by providing more air to the liquid in your reservoir.

SUBJECT: **Glass Ceiling**

FROM: **Andrew P.**

🐛 Hi, Dan D., I'm an avid reader of *High Times* and fan of your show; I've been listening to it from the beginning and have enjoyed every episode. I hear about these various methods for increasing one's yield (i.e., topping, FIMing, ScrOG, etc.), and I was wondering if, by securing a piece of glass or plexiglass directly above the plants (possibly in a growbox/tent) to the point that the tops just barely touch the glass, and then allowing the plants to try to grow *through* the glass, would the plants finally realize that they can no longer grow vertically and start to grow horizontally (i.e., looking for a path around the glass)? And assuming this is the case, wouldn't this method be an ideal way to achieve more surface area in the plant without adding to its height? I feel that if this worked, it would be another good method for someone to achieve a greater yield indoors, where the height is more limited than the square footage of floor space.

Dear Andrew,  
I don't think this theoretical way of

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*Danko Tip:* Plants that grow crowded together are far more likely to develop diseases and molds.

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growing under glass would work. For one thing, the glass would get hot under high-intensity discharge (HID) grow lights, and any leaves, branches or young shoots touching it would be fried. Also, glass actually reduces the amount of light passing through it. This is well known by people who use glass covers on their grow-light reflectors: They accept a 10% loss in light for the ability to control the heat in the grow space by using the built-in air-cooling fans.

I also don't think you'd want your growing buds to be stuck to a glass ceiling. Plants need air circulation to develop and mature, and any setup that results in their canopy being a physical barrier to air leaves much to be desired. However, a screen works well because it lets air through and doesn't stifle growth or resin production, so use some chicken wire or a homemade trellis instead for training your plants.

Webbing is a sign of severe spider mite infestation.



SUBJECT: **Web Slingers**

FROM: **Backyard Betty**

🌿 My plants seem to be developing some webbing. From the top down, it looks like the buds that are forming are all being covered in spider webs. The webs go from the buds to the leaves and everywhere in between. What is happening to them, and what can I do about it? Right now, it looks like a catastrophe of epic proportions.

Dear Betty,

The webs you're describing are built by spider mites. If you look more closely, you'll see tiny, dark-colored dots using those webs as a highway to destroying your plants. If the mites have gotten as far as building webs, you've got a full-blown infestation on your hands. Had you caught the infestation earlier by closely examining the bottoms of your leaves for tiny black dots or the tops of the leaves for tiny yellow ones, I would have recommended some form of pest treatment and management. But it seems to me that you've let them get too far and need to scrap your entire project and start again. Then, next time around, examine your plants more carefully throughout their growth to prevent infestations. The best way to start is to get a loupe or a magnifying glass and check your plants daily. 🌿





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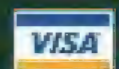
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## Shedding the Light

Pot "abuse," Satchmo and Election Day 2014

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).

What's this pill that's supposed to end marijuana "abuse"?

*Elga Presley*

Hi Elga,  
As cruel as it sounds, researchers have a new toy. It's Ro 61-8048, a chemical that eliminates marijuana-induced pleasure in rodents and primates. It's unlike the standard blockers of euphoria and the dopamine system, so it's got some suspicious minds all shook up. We still have no sense for what kind of side effects might occur with long-term use in humans. It's also certainly unclear whether most people actually view their marijuana use as so troubling that they'd turn to medication.

A new Gallup Poll says that 58 percent of Americans support legalization. Why don't we just go for it?

*Aesop Hare*

Hi Aesop,  
Legalization referendums will likely appear in several states in 2014 and 2016, but Gallup conducts its polls by phone. We have to make sure to get everybody to the *real* polls to vote!

Do you think that school drug-prevention programs can do more harm than good?

*Smokey Grizzly*

Hi Smokey,  
A few programs are successful, particularly those that

keep kids away from cigarettes. Nevertheless, most programs that focus on cannabis don't change use or attitudes. Over the past 20 years, fewer than 40 percent of high-school students report using pot in the past month. But these pro-

grams can inadvertently give teens the impression that the majority of kids their age are toking up. The misperception that cannabis use is the norm can even lead some teens to start using it—precisely because they think everyone else is doing it. 🌿

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.*



Louis Armstrong had a hit with "Muggles."

You've talked about the first appearance of marijuana in stories and poems, but what about the first cannabis tune?

*Moe Zart*

Hi Moe,  
Louie Armstrong's 1929 hit "Muggles" would be my best guess, but I wouldn't be surprised if the legendary Chinese emperor Shennong sang a song when he allegedly discovered marijuana's medicinal effects circa 2700 BCE.



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# All Gas Is Not Created Equal

Finding the best butane mix.

Generally, when a person starts down the path of making solvent extracts, he (or she) starts with canned gas because it's easy to find and reasonably cheap. There are dozens of brands on the market, and an elite few have become the BHO maker's go-to choice. Some of these brands have even been used to make High Times Cannabis Cup-winning products. But what's so different about these brands compared to the rest?

Let's start with some information from the butane companies. Manufacturers of chemical products are required to publish a material safety data sheet (MSDS). These describe, in detail, the chemical contents and properties of the product. One would think that the best gas for making BHO would be pure n-butane, and for some extract artists, that is their solvent of choice. But many extract artists who graduate to a cylinder of Airgas n-butane find something missing in the final result.

When you check out the MSDS for two of the most popular brands of 'tane, you'll see something they have in common: about 15 percent propane. What's not included in these two brands? Ethyl mercaptan—the stuff that gives odorless gases a noticeable smell. It's a safety feature added so that you can tell if your



Any extraction involving butane should be left to experienced professionals.

And so we come to the concept of custom mixed gases, the realm of the true professional extract artist.

gas container is leaking. It's also one of the last things anyone wants to have in a hash sample.

And so we come to the concept of custom mixed gases, the realm of the true professional extract artist. There's no doubt that the medical- or food-grade n-butane sold by a major gas wholesale outlet is a better primary solvent to work with than even the best canned brands. But you still have to consider the use of other, secondary solvents in a gas mixture—such as pure propane or pure hexane—to capture the full spectrum of cannabinoids and terpenes in the extract. The exact ratio of solvents used in these mixtures is a closely-held trade secret among master extractors.

So my advice would be to study the MSDS info on the retail canned gases you've had some success

with. This data can help you take the next step toward the use of custom-blended solvents in a professional extraction laboratory. The reality is that the quest for finding the best solvent isn't as simple as starting an Airgas account and buying n-butane. At the core of extraction-technique innovation, there's still a lot of research, and trial and error, for all of us to slog through. *Joe Holden*

Here are links to the MSDS for the leading two brands of canned butane: Vector: [ht.420.com/vectorMSDS](http://ht.420.com/vectorMSDS) Colibri: [ht.420.com/colibriMSDS](http://ht.420.com/colibriMSDS).

High Times **STRONGLY** recommends that only trained professionals engage in the making of BHO. Failure to take proper precautions can be hazardous to your health.

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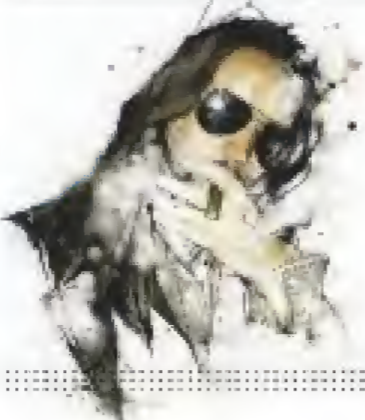
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## A Sad Farewell to Two Freedom Fighters

Honoring a pair of inspiring activists who were taken from us far too soon.

On the evening of October 6, 2013, Boston marijuana activist Michael L. Malta, better known to the cannabis community as the “King of Pot,” suffered a heart attack and passed away. KOP (as his friends affectionately called him) wasn’t just one of the most positive voices for change in our movement—he was also one of the sweetest, sincerest guys you could ever hope to meet. Every September, when my wife, my colleagues and I went up to Boston for the Freedom Rally, he treated us as if we were family.

In fact, KOP treated almost everyone as if they were family—with hugs, smiles, and seemingly boundless energy, generosity and goodwill for all.

Just a month earlier, in the wee hours of September 1, a beautiful young activist in Denver who went by the name of Jenny Kush was driving home from a concert with her boyfriend Jeremy when a woman coming the wrong way up the highway exit ramp collided with them—sending Jeremy to the hospital, and Jenny to that great green ganja field in the sky. The tragic irony in this case is that a woman who had devoted her life to promoting the idea that marijuana was safer than alcohol had that life taken from her by a driver who was drunk.

Jenny was a member of Mile High NORML, Moms for Marijuana and Occupy Denver, as well as a co-host of John Doe Radio on *icannabisradio.com*, and later the host of her own show (with Jeremy) called SexPot Radio. I was a guest on SexPot Radio once at our 2012 Denver Medical Cannabis Cup, but other than that I honestly didn’t know her all that well. Nor was I very close with Michael, though he and I shared a deep mutual affection and respect. So I won’t presume to eulogize them here—that sad duty has already been accomplished in far better fashion than I ever could: My colleague Rick Cusick wrote a touching tribute to KOP on our website at *hightimes.com/kingofpot*, and pot critic William Breathes penned a heart-breaking obituary on Jenny for Denver’s *Westword* alt-weekly website.

Memorials for both were held as well: The week after KOP’s death, his friends, family and fellow activists met on the hill known as “Mount Mary Jane” in Boston Common at 4:20 p.m. to remember him, light up in his honor and rechristen the hill

as “Mount Malta.” Sadly, I couldn’t make it; nor could I attend the candle-light vigil for Jenny held September 30 on the steps of the Colorado state capitol. I did, however, lead a “moment of loudness” in Jenny’s honor onstage at our U.S. Cannabis Cup

awards show in Seattle this past September (a tribute that Jeremy recreated at the vigil), and I hope to attend this year’s Boston Freedom Rally to pay similar tribute to KOP.

The saddest part of all this is that Jenny’s four children have now been orphaned. For those generous souls who might be willing to donate money toward their future, please go to [fundrazr.com/campaigns/dapAc](http://fundrazr.com/campaigns/dapAc). As for me, I intend to raise money for them in a way that I believe Jenny would heartily approve of: Since (as the title of her radio show suggests) she was as passionate about sex as she was about pot, I plan to auction off my collection of pornography (approximately 69 VHS tapes, a dozen or so DVDs, and a few dozen Playboy and Penthouse mags) and donate the proceeds to her fund.

You see, I was a rather avid fan of such things in my bachelor days—but being happily married now and planning to start a family, I have little use for them any longer. So if these erotic movies and magazines can provide enjoyment to some other young stoner out there as they once did for me, *and* raise money for a worthy cause at the same time, that’s a win-win in my book. Plus, since many of these movies are on VHS, I’ll even throw in a VCR to watch them on, which I will personally autograph for the winning bidder. For details on how to bid, go to [hightimes.com/sexpot](http://hightimes.com/sexpot).

Rest in power, KOP and Jenny Kush. Thank you for fighting to make the world a better place and for touching all of our lives. You won’t soon be forgotten. ✨



From left: Jenny Kush and her boyfriend Jeremy at the 2012 Denver Medical Cannabis Cup; KOP and me at the 2011 Boston Freedom Rally.

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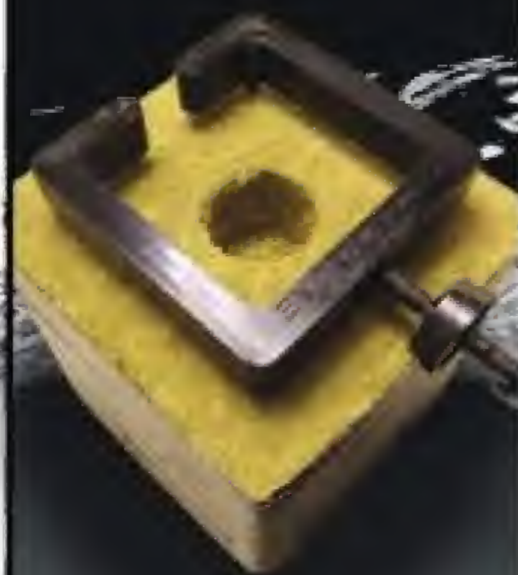
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# The Recession's Silver Lining

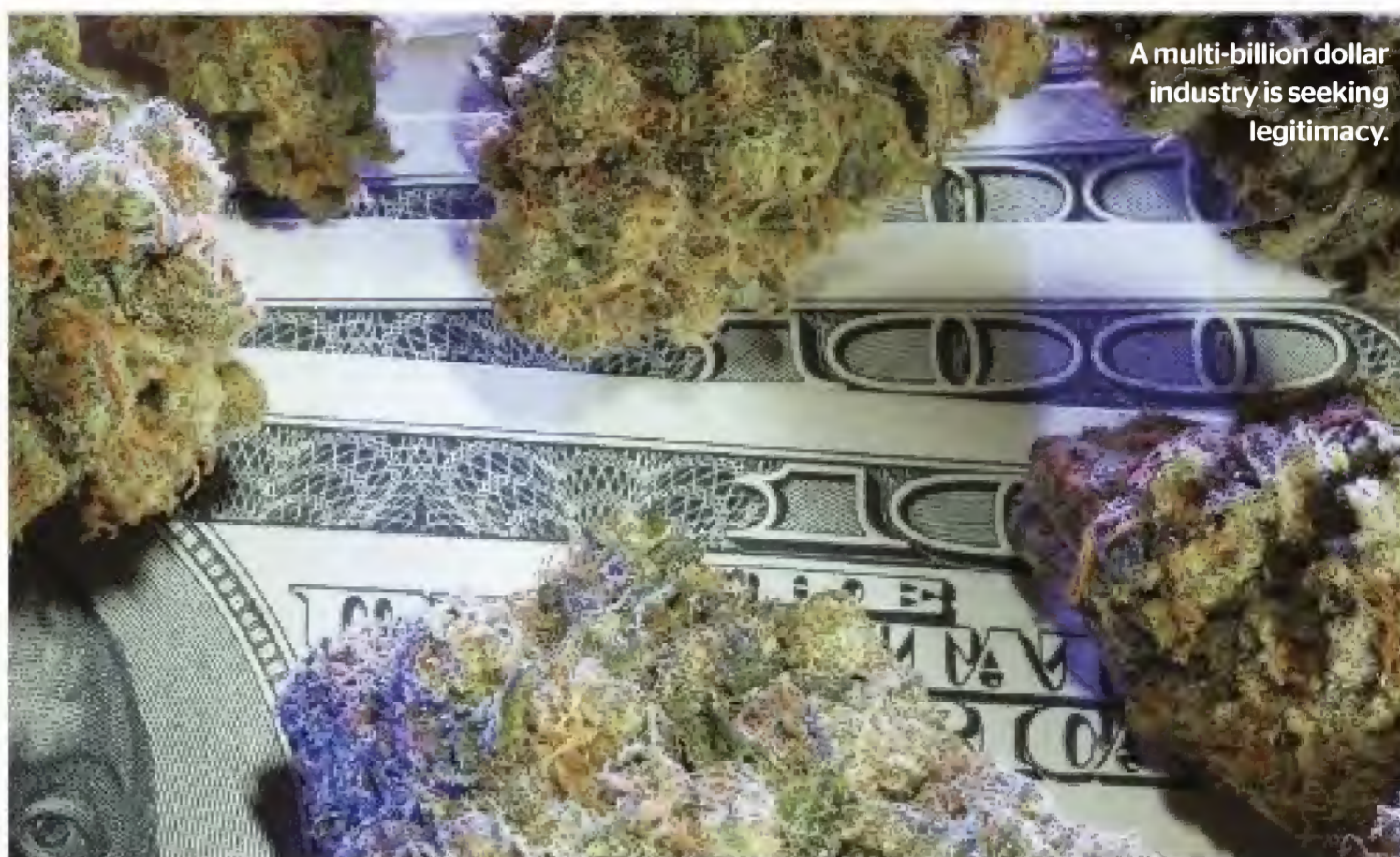
The almighty dollar is helping to end marijuana prohibition.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).

**O**ne of the driving forces behind cannabis legalization's surging popularity in America—now up to 58 percent support according to Gallup polling in October—is economics. In the recent winning legalization initiatives in Washington and Colorado, voters expressed concerns that, as with alcohol prohibition, tax dollars were futilely being spent on enforcing cannabis laws, with no counter-balancing revenue or social controls benefiting society or improving public safety.

The economics argument for cannabis legalization has always been a prominent one for reform groups like NORML, with dozens of reports and papers published since 1970 on why legalized cannabis makes better economic sense than prohibition. And now, a new front in the battle for legalization has emerged. With retail access to cannabis a reality in a number of states, the multi-billion dollar industry is seeking legitimacy via the government accepting their taxes, fees and license costs.

For the past 25 years, there have never been more than three or four registered lobbyists representing nonprofit, social justice organizations like NORML on Capitol Hill. Today, due to the increase of medical cannabis-related businesses, the number of pot lobbyists (and their lawyers) has more than quadrupled. They're not grinding the axe for legal cannabis using health, moral or constitutional



A multi-billion dollar industry is seeking legitimacy.

arguments. Instead, theirs is almost purely economic advocacy—cash flow lost to the black market, and the revenue-raising possibilities of corporate, excise, sales and payroll taxes.

Labor unions like United Food and Commercial Workers are aggressively recruiting industry workers—so-called “rippers,” trimmers and budtenders from the medical cannabis industry. They also rely on union muscle to influence state and federal policymakers to legalize cannabis.

While the plant's industrial, medical and therapeutic benefits should be enough to legalize cannabis, politicians and

governments still need to be educated, and convinced that “tax and control” policies are far better than the long-failed policy of pot prohibition. Now their priorities have been sharpened by this crushing, six-year economic recession. At NORML, we welcome them, one and all—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Libertarians and Greens—to the ever-growing anti-prohibition club. 🌿

*Read more about how economics are playing an increasingly important role in public discussions and debates about legalizing cannabis. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org) and type “economics” into the internal search engine.*

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

### Mike Malta (1961-2013)

A tribute to a beloved Bay State activist.

Mike Malta, better known as the “King of Pot,” passed away far before his time this past October. He was a persistent personality and beloved figure in the marijuana reform movement, and he will be sorely missed.

Mike began working on marijuana law reform in the early 1990s,

propelled to activism after discovering that medical marijuana helped his OCD and depression. He became a permanent fixture in the reform movement of the Northeast and combined his affinity for entertainment with advocacy.

Mike launched *KOPproductions.com* and became a hard-working presence at rallies, protests and Statehouse hearings, while



producing professional video and live-streaming broadcasts. His passionate speeches at the annual Boston Freedom Rally made a lasting impression on attendees.

The King of Pot recently worked to organize and mobilize medical marijuana patients in Massachusetts to protest strict regulations being implemented in the state. Always looking forward,

he also teamed up with his longtime partner Mike Cann to push for the full legalization of marijuana in Massachusetts in 2016.

His generosity and friendly nature will long be remembered. Reflecting on Mike's passing, blogger Scott Gacek says, “It's not that he was just a brother to me, but that he was a brother to all he met.”

Rest in peace, King of Pot. Your righteous efforts for the cause will never be forgotten.

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator



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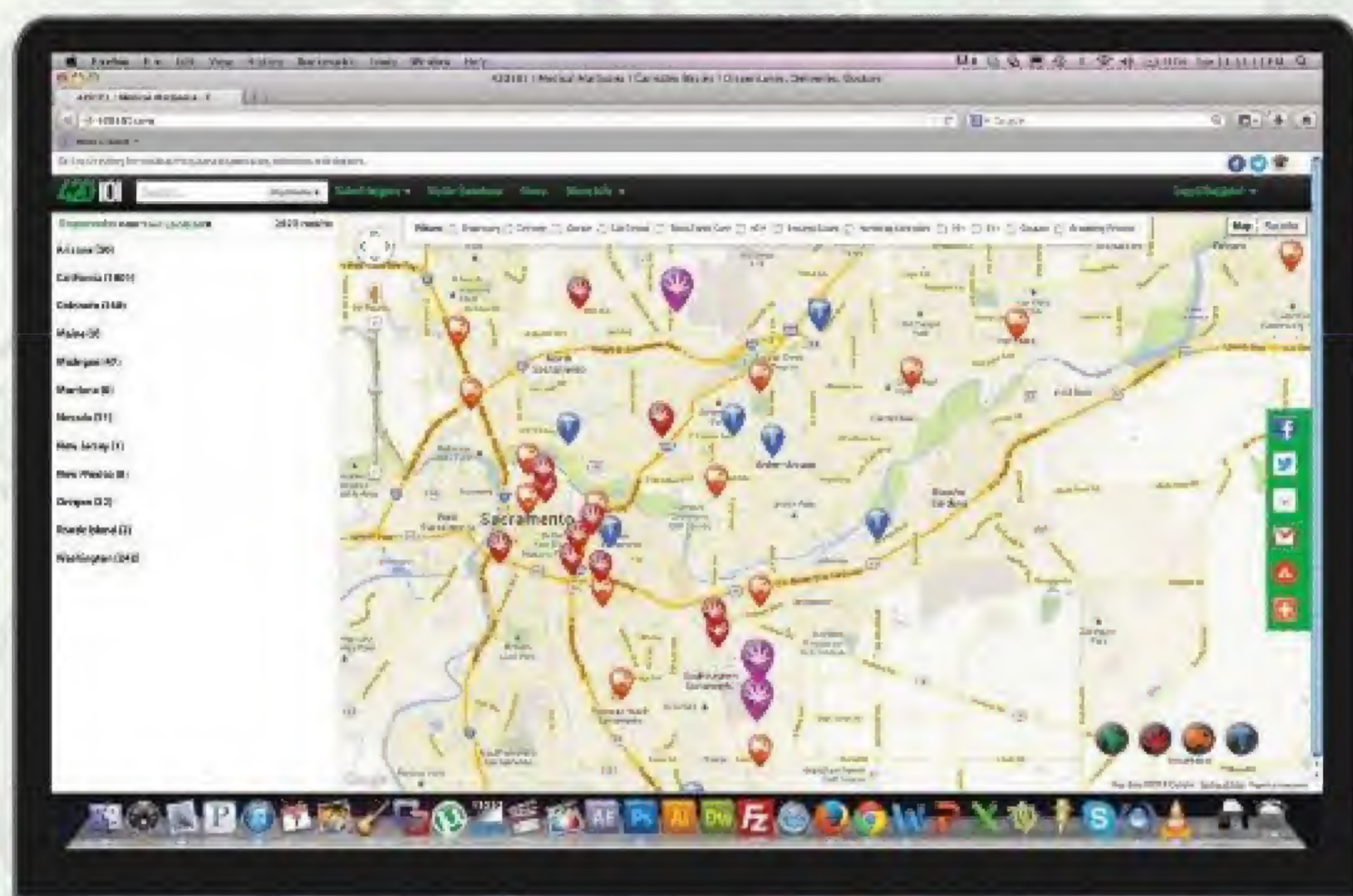


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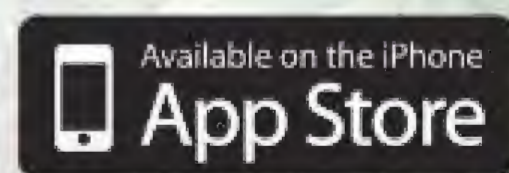
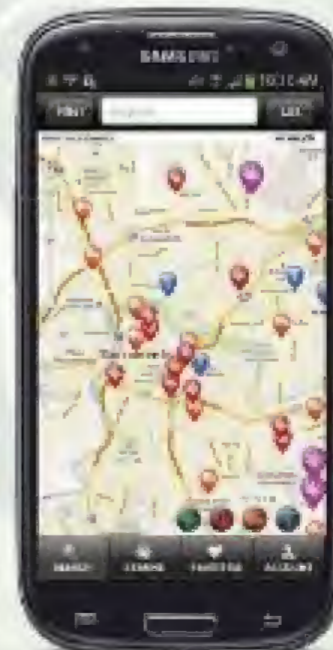
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## COLA OF THE MONTH

### Let Your Soul Shine



Here is a shot of a Northern Lights x Sweet Tooth autoflower strain grown organically with loving care here in SoCal. *Halemon*





# PREMIER



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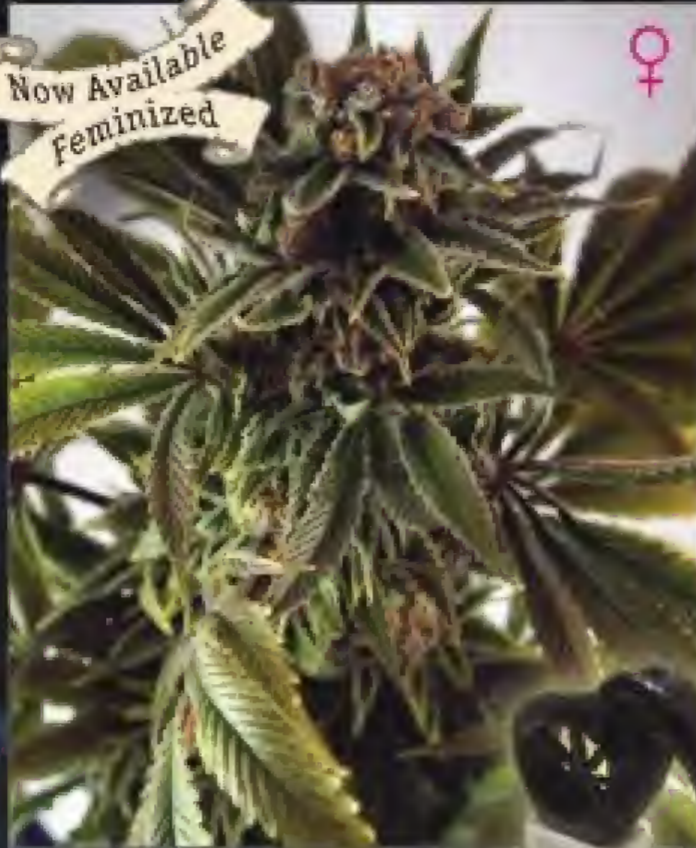
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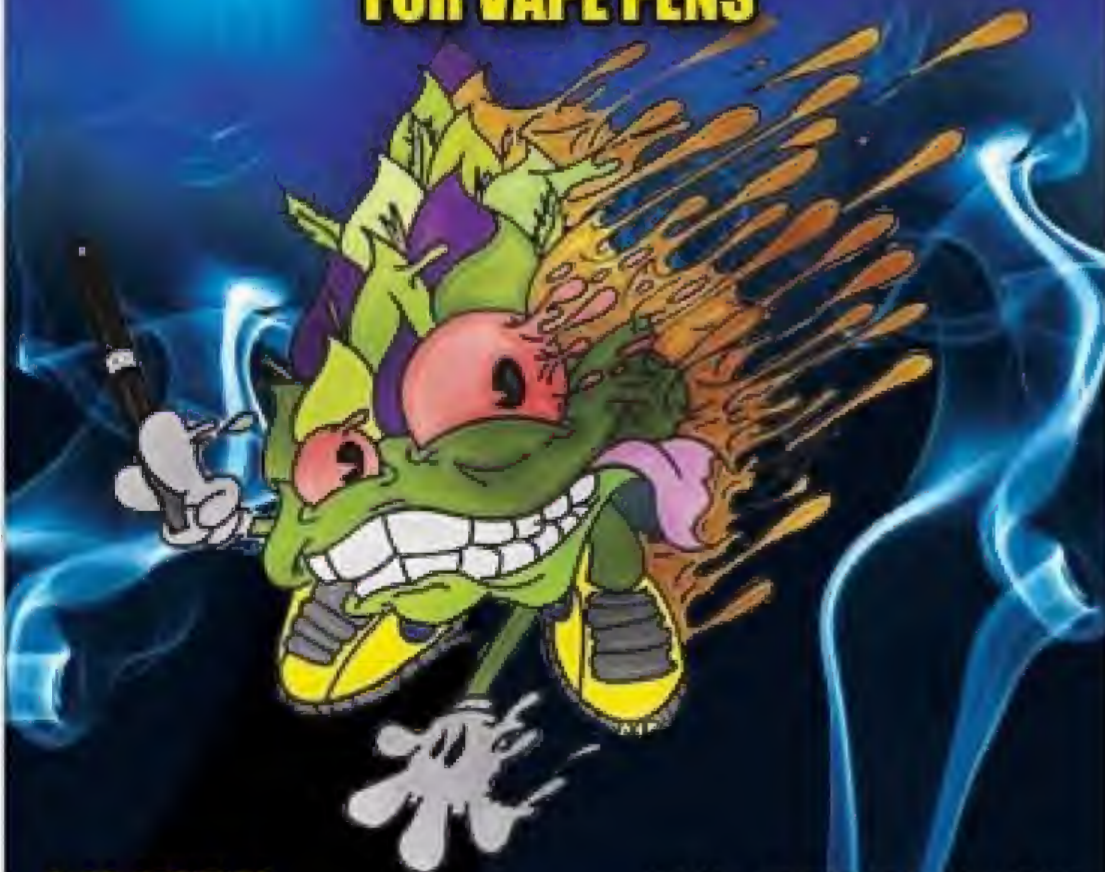


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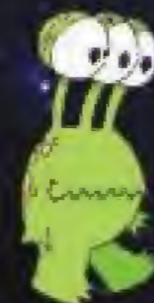


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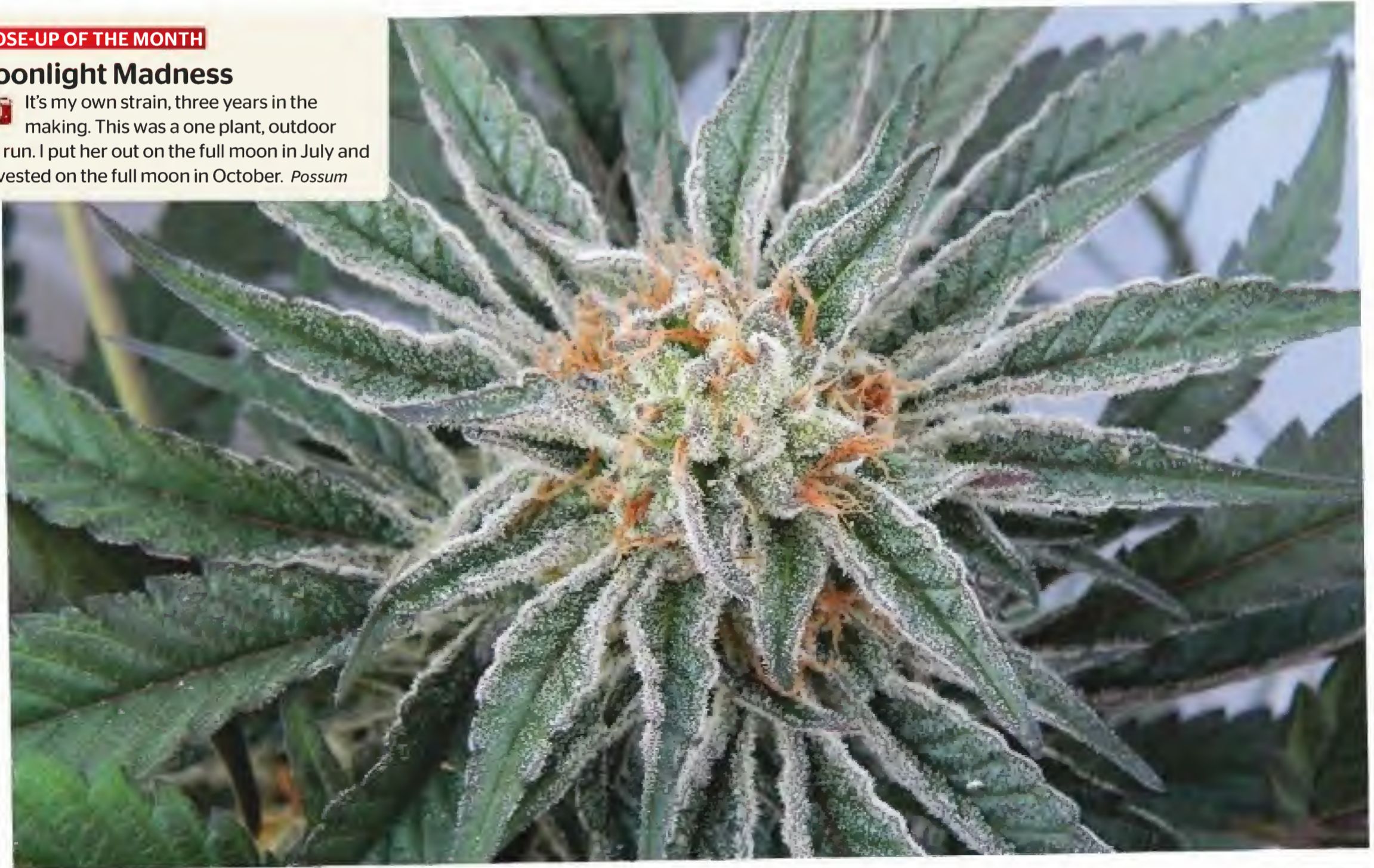
*Chef Raska*



**CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH**

**Moonlight Madness**

 It's my own strain, three years in the making. This was a one plant, outdoor trial run. I put her out on the full moon in July and harvested on the full moon in October. *Possum*



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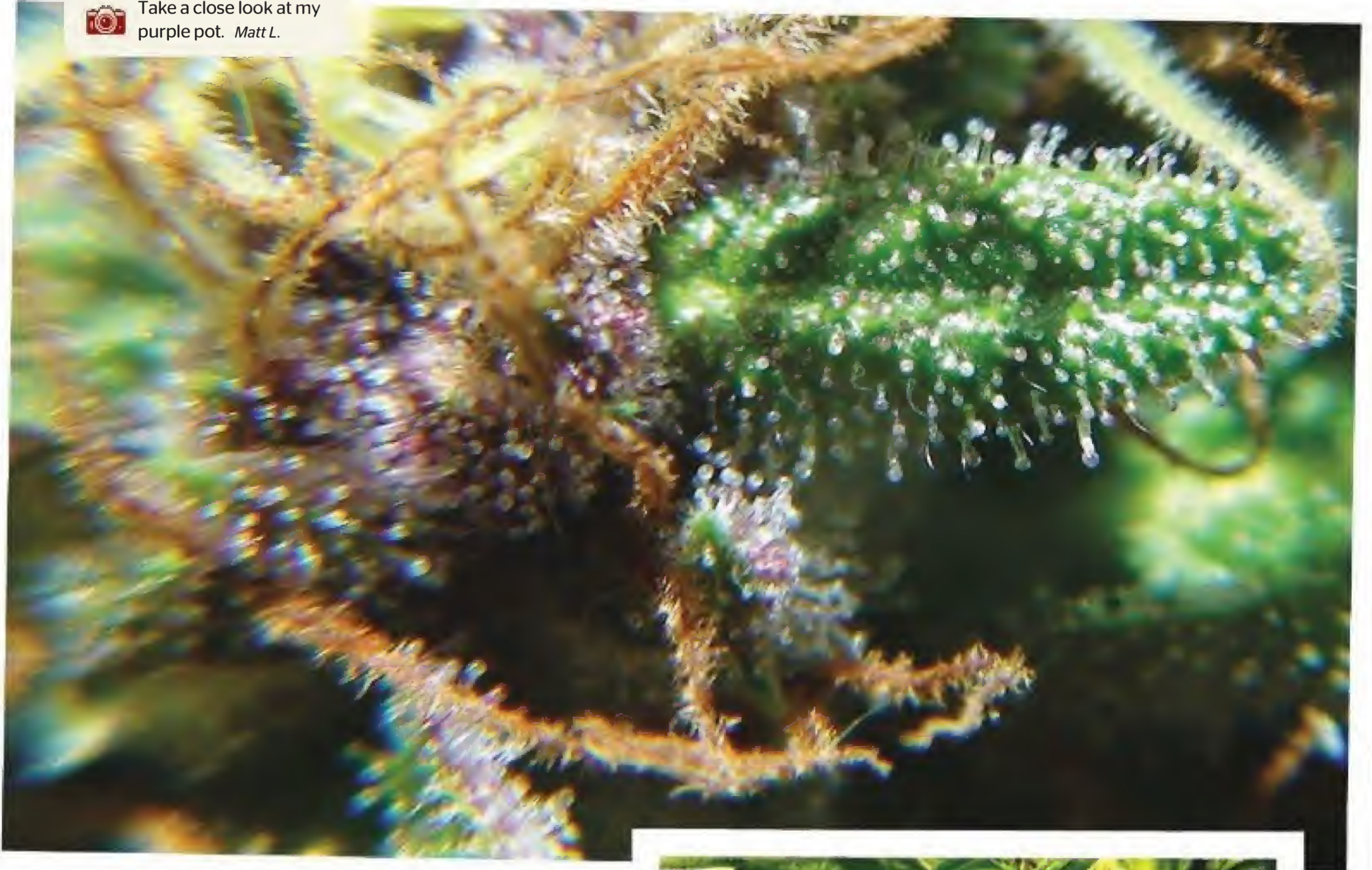
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**TRICHOMES OF THE MONTH**

**Purple Reign**

Take a close look at my purple pot. *Matt L.*



**GROWER OF THE MONTH**

**High Altitude**

Here's a neat pic from last week here in the Rockies. This is inside our new greenhouse at 8000 feet in Colorado. Chopping the Chernobyls behind me now. The ones in my hand are Commandant 2.0. Very heavy producers. Yee-haw! *Grateful in Colorado,* photo by *Shitzoo*



**PET OF THE MONTH**

**Being Green Is Easy**

Check out our garden protector. Found this guy lounging around in our growing buds. Hope you enjoy! *Barncat and Fat Cobra*

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The Wailers were a major highlight of the 26th Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

### ► The 26th Annual Cannabis Cup

For over a quarter of a century, High Times has hosted the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. It's a celebration of the industry and an open invitation to the global community of marijuana lovers to toke up together in pot paradise. Check out all of the merriment as we cover the sights, sounds and, of course, smells of our annual bud bacchanalia.

### ► Soma Revealed

Over the past 20 years, the breeder known as Soma has created championship strains with names like Lavender, Amnesia Sour Haze and NYC Diesel. Learn how this American expat became an Amsterdam legend.

### ► The Cheeba Chews Choice

Cheeba Chews, the award-winning edibles company, has made potency and consistency its bywords. Here's a look at the innovative and carefully developed process for activating and infusing cannabinoids in edibles.

### ► Master Blasters

Go inside Oregon's Skunk Pharm Research and meet the master blasters who have been teaching eager students how to properly make potent concentrates.

### ► BC Bud Grows Up

Canadian grow correspondent Erik Biksa gives us a rare peek into the future of large-scale medical marijuana production in this behind-the-scenes look at one of the leaders in the global cannabis-cultivation industry.

### ► Inside Anonymous

Since its inception in 2003 as a loosely aligned, anarchist online collective, Anonymous has grabbed headlines with its cyber attacks on governments, corporations and various targets. But who are the faces behind the Guy Fawkes masks? *High Times* speaks with the greatest hacktivists of our generation.



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## Featured Products



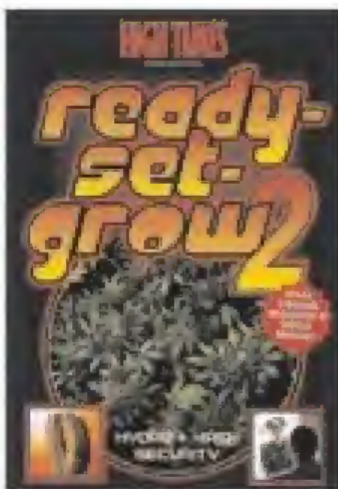
**HIGH TIMES Cultivation Editors' Combo Pack**  
Set includes Jorge Cervantes' *Ultimate Grow Box Set*, Nico Escondido's *Grow Like a Pro*, and Danny Danko's *Field Guide to Marijuana Strains*. An \$85 value for only **\$69.99!**



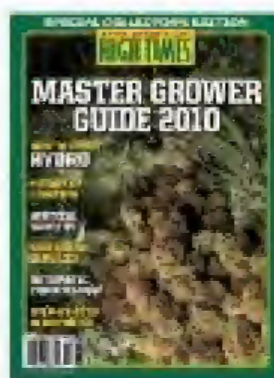
**HIGH TIMES Presents Nico Escondido's *Grow Like a Pro* DVD**  
Featuring over two hours of comprehensive cultivation coverage and bonus material, this HD-film features footage of America's top medical grow facilities, indoor and outdoor-growing and greenhouse techniques. **\$19.95**



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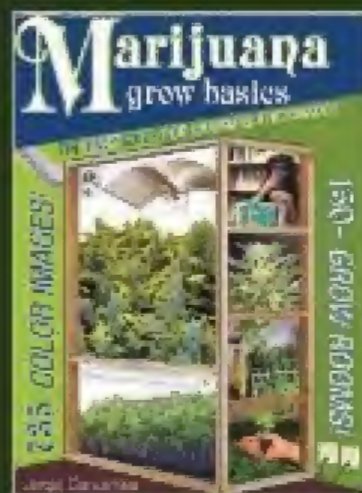
## Classics from master grower Jorge Cervantes



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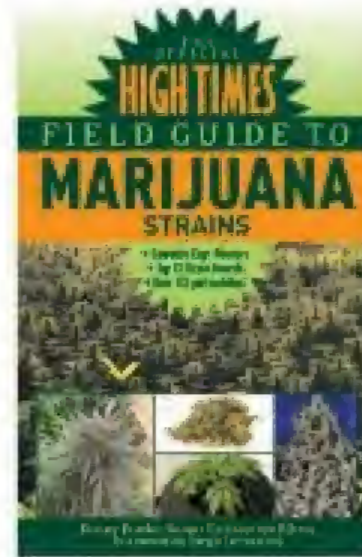


**Marijuana Horticulture**  
The Fifth Edition of Jorge Cervantes' best-selling book, completely rewritten, updated and expanded! **\$29.95**

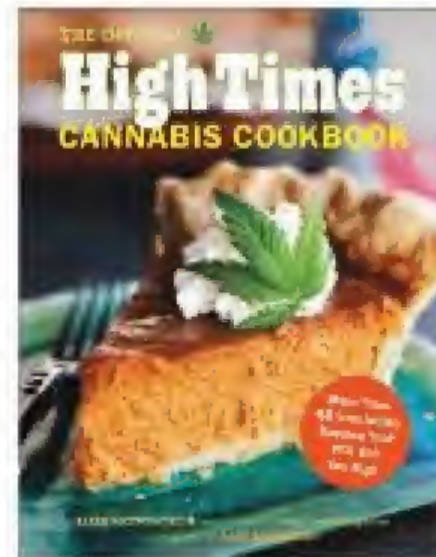


**Marijuana Grow Basics**  
This informative guide is packed with illustrations and photos of more than 150 affordable marijuana grow setups. **\$21.95**

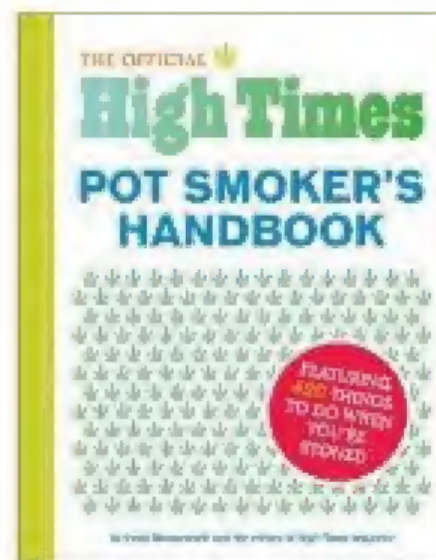
## High Times Books



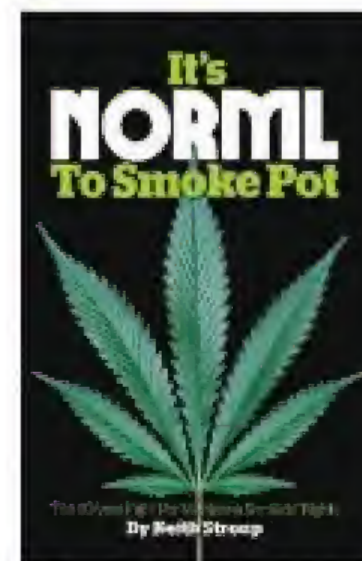
**The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains**  
By Danny Danko  
This cannabis compendium covers the world's top pot varieties—all meticulously researched and lovingly described in terms ranging from odors and flavors to potency levels and medicinal properties. **\$14.95**



**The Official HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cookbook**  
by Elise McDonough  
Go way beyond the brownie and master your munchies with over 50 recipes for stoner cuisine that will get you high—including recipes inspired by Cheech and Chong, Snoop Dogg and Willie Nelson. **\$19.95**



**The Official HIGH TIMES Pot Smoker's Handbook**  
by David Bienenstock  
This handbook rolls up all of our collected wisdom into one indispensable ganja guide. With a life-changing list of 420 things to do when you're stoned, this is truly the ultimate guide to green living. **\$19.95**



**It's NORML To Smoke Pot: The 40-Year Fight For Marijuana Smokers' Rights**  
By Keith Stroup  
The story of NORML, the oldest and most effective organization dedicated to the reform of marijuana laws, told by its founder and leader. If you believe in the principle of civil liberties, then Keith Stroup is a true American hero. **\$14.99**



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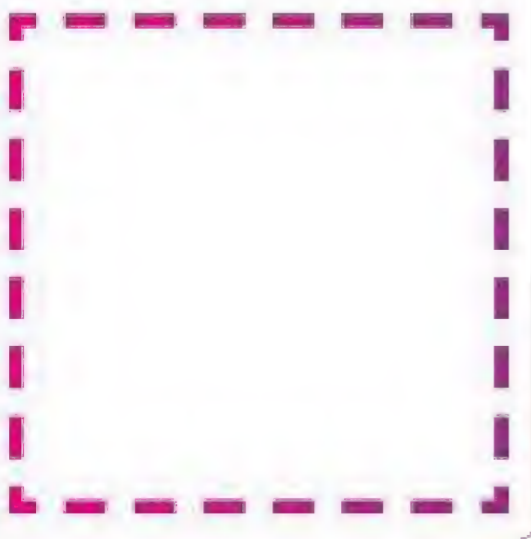
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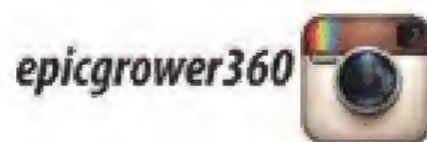
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